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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

FOR LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN DISPOSAL OF ANCIENT REMAINS:

Advocates slam HPO, DCCA

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Calls for resignation of Kani, Ogumoro

Chamorro cultural advocates slammed yesterday government leaders overseeing the disposal of 332 human remains and artifacts uncovered on the construction grounds of the Saipan casino in Garapan, complaining that they have tried and tried to obtain information from the local Historic Preservation Office on the "disposition and whereabouts" of these remains but with no success.

See ADVOCATES on Page 4

Copper wire thieves now stealing copper candleholders at cemetery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Copper wire thieves are not only stealing power lines but also copper candleholders that are placed on the graves at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Celina Kaipat told *Saipan Tribune* last night that thieves stole two candleholders made of copper from the grave of her father at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery last Sunday.

Kaipat also complained that before all Soul's Day, solar lights that they put at the grave of her husband at the Tanapag Cemetery were also stolen.

Kaipat also disclosed that her sister-in-law, attorney Jacinta Kaipat, posted in her Facebook account similar in-

See COPPER on Page 4

'Premium compensation' for NMC prexy nixed

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College did not agree to compensate the college president under the category of "premium compensation"—a form of pay that the college gave to some of its personnel during the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

After an executive session during their board meeting last Thursday, the board voted on whether or not to compensate college president Dr. Sharon Hart under the said category.

"There was a discussion with regards to compensation and in regards to how the

See PREMIUM on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents voted and did not agree on giving "premium compensation" to college president Dr. Sharon Hart. The said compensation was given to certain employees who came to work as well as participated in cleanups during the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

INSIDE

LOCAL
Veal is not something that you would usually see on Saipan's menus much so veal that is cooked in its *auntentico Italiano* glory.
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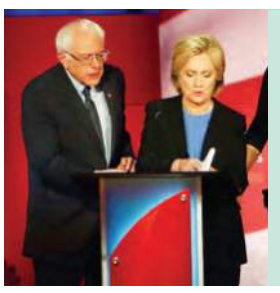

NATION
Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders tangled repeatedly over who's tougher on gun control and Wall Street and how to steer the future of health care in America.
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LIFE & STYLE
The investigative journalism drama "Spotlight" won the top prize at the Critics' Choice Awards on Sunday.
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Local

Suspect in stabbing of woman in San Antonio falls

Police arrested yesterday a 38-year-old woman who allegedly stabbed and injured a cashier at a store across the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio on Sunday.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said Cherlynn M. Worswick, a local, was located at the Koblerville Youth Center at 12:05am.

Tarkong said police arrested Worswick at 12:20am for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Tarkong said the victim, a 52-year-old Filipina cashier, received 15 stitches to the right hand at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room and was later released.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services earlier described the victim as a 23-year-old Filipina.

Tarkong said police responded to a reported disturbance call at the Islander Mini Mart just east of PIC on Sunday at 11:57am.

Police learned that the victim was in the store when the suspect, who was later identified as Worswick, assaulted her with a knife.

Worswick

Tarkong said Worswick confronted the cashier and stabbed her with a knife.

Worswick fled the scene prior to the arrival of police officers.

Tarkong said the suspect was identified though witnesses and video surveillance.

Medics transported the cashier to CHC.

On Sunday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio signed an arrest warrant for Worswick and imposed a $10,000 cash bail.

Tarkong said the case is still under investigation to confirm the motive behind the attack. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Instagram account 'exposes' graphic selfies of residents

An Instagram account purportedly seeking to "expose" graphic photos of island residents hit the rounds of Facebook and Twitter yesterday afternoon, but appeared to be taken down after those concerned reported the account to website management.

The veracity of the nine photos—mostly female with one male—could not be immediately confirmed, but the account, titled "DirtySaipanSluts" boasted at times in capslock and exclamation what appeared to be the names of the individuals in the photos. The account, also titled "Saipan Exposed," gained some 200 followers before 4pm yesterday, and appeared to be taken down around that time.

Following a tip from one of the people in the photos, *Saipan Tribune* reached out to this individual reported in the photo but could not verify the report as of press time.

In what appeared to be obtained "selfies," some of the photos displayed full-frontal shots of these women and man. Another account titled "Bringthesluts670" was also discovered yesterday but without any posts.

Maria Dizon, who posted about the account on her Facebook page and called on people to report the account yesterday, noted that accounts like these would be shamelessly directed mostly toward women.

"People who make social media accounts like this probably don't know about the severity of their posts," she told *Saipan Tribune*. " 'Simple' things like these hate accounts can lead to depression, suicide, and self-harm." She urged anyone that encounters an account like this to report and block it as soon as possible. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Water interruptions in villages because of reservoir issues

Various villages experienced water interruptions over the long weekend as issues continue to beset reservoirs on island.

In an update yesterday, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that low water levels were experienced in the Rapagao reservoir.

"CUC customers along Costal Drive and Laguna Drive are experiencing a temporary service interruption due to low water levels in the Rapagao reservoir. The tank has been secured to allow levels to recover," CUC public information officer Brad Ruszala said.

He added that regular water service will resume as scheduled this morning.

Last Saturday, customers who receive water from the San Vicente reservoir lost service after two booster pumps went offline Friday night.

Limited service was restored to customers later on that same day after crews successfully repaired and reinstalled one of two booster pumps that went offline.

"Until both of the boosters come online, water service will be limited in the affected area. Crews are addressing the second booster pump this morning," CUC said yesterday.

It added that the completion of the repairs was estimated at 4pm yesterday.

"In addition to the customers directly affected by the offline booster pump, CUC customers in Garapan served by the Puerto Rico reservoir are experiencing limited water service due to low levels inside of the tank," CUC said.

Regularly scheduled water service will resume today, according to the utilities company. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

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Manglona intends to dismiss CUC lawsuit over CW-1 permits delay

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has expressed her intent to dismiss the lawsuit filed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its 18 foreign workers against Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson and other federal officials, once the final rule on Commonwealth-only worker, or CW-1 permits, has gone into effect on Feb. 14, 2016.

In an order issued on Friday, Manglona said if CUC and its 18 foreign workers object to dismissal of their lawsuit over the delay of CUC's petition for renewal of CW-1 permits, even in light of publication of the final rule, they may file a memorandum in opposition to dismissal no later than Jan. 22, 2016.

Manglona

If an opposition memorandum is filed, the judge said, Johnson and co-defendants may file a response no later than Jan. 29.

Manglona noted that last Jan. 13, the federal government announced that the final rule "Enhancing Opportunities for H-1BI, CW-1, and E-3 Nonimmigrants and EB-1 Immigrants," which amends the regulations so as to authorize continued employment for CW-1 nonimmigrants if a petitioner has timely filed a petition requesting an extension of stay, is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Jan. 15, 2016, and will be effective 30 days from the date of publication.

Manglona said it appears that implementation of these changes in the regulations will prevent a recurrence of the harm that CUC complains of in the lawsuit.

As of last Wednesday, 17 of 18 foreign workers who joined CUC's lawsuit, have received approvals of petition for renewal of their Commonwealth-only worker, or CW-1 permits.

CUC counsel James Sirok said, however, the utilities agency also has one non-plaintiff foreign employee whose authorization expired on Dec. 31, 2015, and is not working.

Sirok said CUC has received a request for evidence for this non-plaintiff foreign employee.

Sirok said this request for evidence further delays a determination on the petition for renewal.

Last Jan. 12, Manglona ordered CUC and the 18 workers to explain why their lawsuit should not be dismissed as moot.

Manglona issued the order as she granted plaintiffs' motion for withdrawal for a preliminary injunction. She also granted plaintiffs' request to vacate the hearing on the motion for preliminary injunction set for Jan. 21.

In plaintiffs' response, Sirok asserted that the lawsuit should not be dismissed as moot because the issue raised—loss of employment authorization during the pendency of the employer's petition for an extension of CW-1 status—is likely to recur as other employees' CW-1 permits come up for renewal.

Sirok said there is still a justiciable issue as not all CUC CW-1 employees whose authorizations expired on Dec. 31, 2015, have received permits.

Sirok said there will be further petitions for renewals submitted by CUC this year

See MANGLONA on Page 4

ON CDBG FUND:

PSS hopes NMHC will review decision

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The decision to disallow the Public School System from applying to the Community Development Block Grant because of its "non-compliance" in previous project requirements will have a "great impact" on the school district and the community.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, who met last month with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director Jesse Palacios, said she hopes that NMHC will review its decision.

"I hope that the CDBG fund, which is available for any community development, that the director will review his decision because I just don't see the rationale with the decision that was made," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

"His decision to prevent us from submitting application to CDBG is certainly a concern to me. I know that many of the CDBG funds that we have used in the past for the school district is really to support the community," she added.

Sablan said that the decision of the housing corporation will impact not only the schools especially because they take into consideration other community members when they apply for this grant.

"It will certainly have a great impact not just on the students but to the community as a whole as we find ways to improve the lives of children, and the lives of families in the island," Sablan said.

"As we submit applications from the school district, it's not just for the school district but the community as a whole. I hope that they see that kind of decision on how it's going to impact children, youth, and families in this community," she added.

CDBG funds are allocated to NMHC by the U.S. Department of Urban and Housing Development.

Last November, NMHC informed PSS that "due to the entity's non-compliance with CDBG requirements with its previous projects," they are disallowed from proposing to future CDBG and that the corporation will not accept any future CDBG funding applications from PSS "until further notice."

This was due to the loss of MHS Building J collateral equipment, which was funded back in 2008. During an inventory check in 2010, NMHC was unable to find equipment such as laptops, desktops, projectors, and chairs that amount to $69,000.

NMHC reimbursed HUD the value of the missing equipment.

PSS was also cited for their failure to construct the Saipan Southern High School swimming pool funded in 2013.

Asked if they will pay NMHC for what they reimbursed HUD, Sablan said she doesn't know if they are required.

"It's in their books that there's an amount that's due for the cost of those equipment. But as far as the school is concerned, we believe otherwise," Sablan said.

Sablan, however, said that they will be looking into locating the missing equipment.

"My effort is to make sure that we are responsible for finding, locating those. Certainly we have to do our best to look for those equipment," Sablan said, "I'm sure that they might be in a storage somewhere."

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Lawsuit mulled if Manila denied off-island treatment

Steven P. Pixley, a lawyer retained by the Consulate Office of the Republic of the Philippines to represent prisoner Reynaldo A. Manila, is poised to file a lawsuit against the CNMI government if Manila will not be transported off-island to get medical treatment to avoid permanent blind in his left eye.

In a letter to assistant attorney general John Cook on Friday, Pixley said unless arrangements are made to obtain off-island treatment on or before tomorrow, Wednesday, he will file the court action in the U.S. District Court for the NMI seeking appropriate relief without further notice.

The Philippine Consulate in Agatna, Guam asked Pixley to represent Manila with respect to his claim for immediate medical treatment and related issues.

Pixley said AAG Cook recently informed him that the Office of the Governor was handling the Manila matter.

Pixley said the mistreatment of a Philippine citizen held at the Department of Corrections is a serious concern.

Last Dec. 29, Pixley transmitted a letter to DOC Captain Jose K. Pangelinan requesting urgent medical treatment for Manila.

The letter followed a medical report from Dr. Mark Robertson dated Nov. 17, 2015, stating: "Emergency referral to Philippines retinal special ASAP!"

Pixley said DOC has known that his client will go blind unless he receives off-island surgery for almost two months and no action has been taken to obtain this medical treatment.

Pixley said Manila told him on Friday that he was seen by Robertson at the Marianas Eye Clinic last Thursday.

The lawyer said Robertson once again advised Manila that he will be permanently blind in his left eye unless he receives immediate surgery.

"As the Department of Corrections has known for two months, he must be transported off-island to receive medical treatment," he said.

DOC, Pixley said, is obligated to provide prisoners with adequate medical care under the Eight Amendment.

Citing a precedent case, Pixley said in order to prevail on a constitutional claim of inadequate medical care, prisoners must show that prison officials treated them with "deliberate indifference to serious medical needs."

Last Dec. 22, the CNMI Board of Parole unanimously voted to support the commutation of the 60-year prison sentence slapped against Manila, who was convicted in 2002 for the death of his 6-month-old goddaughter.

Manila, now 54 years old, has been serving 15 years out of his 60-year prison term.

The commutation hearing was held after Manila applied commutation through the governor's office. Then-acting governor Ralph DLG Torres consulted the Board of Parole.

Last Jan. 7, governor Torres decided against commutation after taking into account information received from the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety on the history of the case.

Torres said due to Manila's medical conditions, he will work with the OAG to make the necessary arrangements to see that Manila is able to receive the necessary treatment off-island.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley cited a number of reasons why the government opposed the commutation of sentence.

First, Baisley said, the defendant is still five years away to be eligible for parole.

Baisley said Manila was sentenced to 60 years in prison, but he only served 15 years of that sentence.

"He is not eligible for parole until 20 years. So to commute the sentence now means that he served the very small sentence versus what the judge sentenced him to," he said.

Two is, the prosecutor said, the reason for parole hearing was really about Manila's medical condition as he has an eye problem.

Baisley said, however, there is no record or evidence that was entered that the defendant's medical condition is of immediate concern.

He said it also seems that it's possible that the government could take Manila to Guam for treatment.

The baby's parents, who are Filipinos, have six children, including the infant who died in this case.

Manila, a Filipino national, was 39 years old when then-Superior Court Associate Judge Virginia Sablan-Onerheim sentenced him in June 2002 to 60 years in prison for second-degree murder over the death of the infant.

The baby lingered in the hospital for several days before dying on Nov. 6, 2000.

A jury found Manila guilty of second-degree murder and child abuse.

At the sentencing, Manila insisted he did not kill the baby. He has a child in the Philippines.

Then-chief prosecutor Clyde Lemons noted that a doctor testified that the baby had 11 bruises at the back of her head consistent with blunt force trauma or being hit with an object.

Lemons said the doctor testified that the baby was shaken "very hard," consistent with shaken baby syndrome. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Courtesy resignations sought

Courtesy resignations from the top officials at the helms of the CNMI government will be sought this week.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will ask for courtesy resignations from Cabinet officials and special assistants during a meeting today, Tuesday, a senior official close to his thinking said.

Office of the Governor press secretary Ivan Blanco also separately confirmed that courtesy resignations from Cabinet members—as expected with the change in administration following the passing of late governor Eloy S. Inos last Dec. 29—will be sought.

Seen as standard procedure with a new administration at helm, the request is set to be made a week after Inos' funeral last week, when the CNMI gathered to mourn the late governor. Then lieutenant governor Torres and then Senate president Victor Hocog ascended to the top posts in the CNMI government the day Inos passed.

Blanco also last week confirmed a report that Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio has expressed his intent to submit his courtesy resignation to Torres. The late governor Inos appointed Tenorio to the position.

Current Cabinet members are, among others, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro, Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman, Department of Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada, Department of Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Clyde Norita, and DPL's Tenorio. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

COPPER

From Page 1

cidents at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

She said they already reported the matter to police.

Asked about the incidents, Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said he heard about the matter and that he is going to verify it.

Jacinta Kaipat posted in her Facebook account that on Sunday morning family members were dismayed to discover that a thief or thieves dismantled and stole the copper candleholders from her brother Cris' grave.

Jacinta Kaipat said if that wasn't bad enough, thieves also stole the same copper candle holders from their parents' and brother Saturn's graves as well.

As a matter of fact, the lawyer said, a number of other graves were also robbed of copper candleholders.

"How disgusting is this?" Jacinta Kaipat said.

The lawyer urged anyone who has information about these thefts at the cemetery to call NMI Crime Stoppers at 234-7272.

ADVOCATES

From Page 1

In a letter to the HPO and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement called for the resignation of HPO director and State Historic Preservation officer Mertie Kani and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro for allegedly not taking the lead on the disposition of these remains.

The council also tries to paint these two government offices as unacceptably inactive in regards to the repatriation and re-internment of another 263 remains and artifacts discovered on this old Samoa Housing site by previous archaeologists 17 years ago.

Saipan Tribune failed to obtain comments from HPO, DCCA, and the Saipan casino, Best Sunshine International, Ltd., after receiving a copy of the council's letter late afternoon yesterday.

The Matua council has repeatedly cried their dismay over the construction of a 14-story casino resort towering over the heart of Garapan and built on grounds the advocates believe is an ancient Chamorro burial site. Last February, HPO approved the casino's archaeological project to enter 18 burial sites and exhume the remains of ancient Chamorros.

In her letter, council president Liana Hofscheneider writes for a "technical report" for Anaguan, the ancient site. She said the letter serves as a third time it has been requested. The report was due to HPO—after an extension given—last Nov. 30.

"…We need to have the information regarding the disposition and whereabouts of the 332 human remains and artifacts immediately as these historical resources are not your or the government to unilaterally dispense," or for the location to "be kept in secrecy."

"These historical resources rightfully belong to our people, the Chamorros," Hofschneider said.

Other complaints

The letter goes on to urge that HPO rescind an agreement between them and the casino's hired archaeologists to "borrow for one year or more the human remains, and artifacts, and anything found" at the site. This includes shipping the remains off-island, Matua claims.

The council also says the reason of "a lack of funding" to recover the previous 263 remains uncovered on site in the late 1990s was unacceptable.

"It has been over 17 years since our ancestors have waited to be given the honor and respect to be reinterred to their resting place," Hofschneider said. This means it has been "17 years of budget requests that your office should have taken initiative" on. "The lack of funding excuse to this fiasco does not qualify as a reason to justify your neglect of duty."

She said to give authority and disposition of the 332 remains to the casino archaeologists furthers "the insult to this issue."

In calling for Kani's resignation, the council also asks why office archaeologists Eric Lash and Jennings Bunn resigned in a span of six months in 2015, and why historian Ray Muna resigned also.

PREMIUM

From Page 1

compensation would apply to an individual. That discussion led to the decision to come into regular session and the action to take is to state the question and vote on it," then-board chair Juan Lizama said coming into the public session.

Board members voted nay, after the motion to vote was moved and seconded.

The board did not disclose early on the person involved in the question as it was a personnel matter.

However, Hart asked that the board state the question discussed during the executive session and waived the confidentiality for the personnel.

"The person involved is the president," Lizama said, "The question is whether we would agree to the compensation or we will disagree and motion has been had and seconded and votes taken and basically it is obvious that majority of the board did not favor compensating the president under the category of premium compensation."

According to Hart, premium compensation was given to a number of the college's employees who did come to work after Typhoon Soudelor.

She said a "special" and "higher" rate was given to those who were involved in the "hazardous cleanup." A different rate was also given to those employees who came in and did administrative work and other duties when the college was temporarily closed due to the extent of the damage.

"For example, fall semester had to be pushed back to, as you know, late September. All of our courses had to be redone and so department chairs, deans, everybody had to come in and basically reorganize the entire operation of the fall semester," Hart said.

"We ended up paying employees—those who came in—we ended up paying those employees at two different rates. One, those who came in and did those types of responsibilities, I call them the 'administrative' the other duties, maybe like payroll of course had to be done, et cetera, et cetera. We paid them one rate. And then we paid a higher rate those who were involved in the hazardous [cleanup]," she added.

Hart said the cost for the said compensation was about $110,000, which was partly reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She said the college shouldered about $60,000.

"What the board took action on today was the fact that the president was not to be compensated," Hart said.

"I ultimately must stand by the decision of the board," she added when asked if she will seek reconsideration of the decision.

MANGLONA

From Page 3

and in the following years.

CUC currently employs 34 nonresident workers holding the CW-1 CNMI only non-immigrant transitional worker status.

Sirok said CUC will be continuing to petition for the renewal of its CW-1 workers until the Transitional Worker Program created by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act ends on Dec. 31, 2019, or until the utilities agency, through an apprenticeship program or because of other intervening circumstances, is no longer required to be reliant on the continued employment of a single CW-1 worker.

Two weeks ago, Manglona denied the request of CUC and 18 of its affected foreign workers for a temporary restraining order that would allow these CW-1 workers to immediately return to work.

Manglona said plaintiffs, however, may still pursue their claim for a permanent injunction.

Sirok then filed plaintiffs' first amended complaint against the same defendants—Homeland Security Secretary Johnson, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Saarah Saldana, and U.S. Citizenship Director Leon Rodriguez.

In the first amended complaint, Sirok added a claim that plaintiffs are able to work after the expiration date of their respective authorizations so long as the authorizations remain valid in accordance with law.

BEI BEI CHEN

From alternate to MathCourt champ

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Bei Bei Chen was just aiming to earn a spot on the CNMI MathCourt team that would go to this year's Nationals in Missouri so she could fulfill her childhood dream of setting foot in the United States.

That's why the Agape Christian School senior, who was one of the six alternates last year, got the surprise of her life when her name was announced as the individual champion after last Saturday's CNMI state finals at the Saipan Southern High School.

Chen, along with fellow ACS students Claire Song and Allan Zhao, are members of Team CNMI. Marianas High School's B. Masrur Alam and Saipan International School 11th graders Myung Jae Cho and Jaehoon Jang would join them in the Nationals to be held on May 13 at the Brookside Charter School in Kansas City.

"I was really aiming for at least number six on the team that would go to Kansas City. We were a bit frustrated after we failed to place in the team event and I was already losing hope when Allan and Claire's names were called. I was shocked when they called my name as the winner," said the 17-year-old Chen.

Chen won the individual gold with Alam settling for the silver with Song claiming the bronze. Zhao came in fourth with Cho and Chang rounding up the Top 6.

The seventh to 12th placers were the alternates, three of which—En Jie Hu, Andrea Feng and Rebecca Xu—are also from Agape.

Chen and her schoolmates were among the more than 200 CNMI private and public high school students that competed in the MathCourt. From 200, the list was trimmed to 60 where the Top 22 went to the CNMI state finals.

"I give all glory and thanks to God. I am very excited for this trip since it has been my dream to go to the states," added Song, who was the overall middle school champion the first time she joined.

Chen, who will turn 18 on June 1, has a grade point average of 3.91 and she is set to graduate this year. She has already sent applications to a number of colleges and universities in the mainland. "I will take up political science as my undergraduate degree, which would be my pre-law. I want to become a lawyer."

She has also started a Mathematics organization at ACS where she is the president with Song as secretary. Their group's goal is to teach elementary and middle school students on how to enjoy and learn more about Math.

"We've been teaching elementary and middle school students since November. The tutoring program is our way of thanking and giving back to the community," added Chen.

ACS Math teacher Frederick Guintu is their coach. He was also the coach of their elementary school students that went to the Nationals in their division twice.

"We've been to the elementary division nationals twice and I've been wanting my high school students to experience the same. Now Chen is going to the mainland before she graduates," said Guintu.

The CNMI MathCourt team will start its practice on Saturday, Jan. 23, with Manny Borja as the overall coach.

CNMI MathCourt individual champion Bei Bei Chen, left, joins fellow Agape Christian School students Claire Song and Allan Zhao for a group photo. The three are members of Team CNMI that is set to compete in this year's Nationals in Kansas City, Missouri.

JON PEREZ

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Federal judge to hold another site visit at pipeline project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter will visit the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s controversial pipeline project site on Saipan on Jan. 24.

Carter said the Engineering Environmental Management Company (EEMC) will only accompany him during the visit.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based full service construction company that was appointed by the federal court to serve as EEMC and tasked to expeditiously complete some stalled CUC projects.

Carter also set a status conference on Jan. 25 at 9am regarding progress on the pipeline project and the Tank 102 project.

The judge said all parties and the EEMC shall be present in the courtroom. He requested the presence of a representative from Swift Harper Archaeological Resource Consulting.

The EEMC was ordered to file on Jan. 21 a status report addressing progress on the pipeline project.

CUC was ordered to file on Jan. 21 a status report addressing progress on the Tank 102 project.

Upon the conclusion of the status conference, Carter will hold a meeting with the parties on grant funding and related issues.

On Jan. 26, Carter, accompanied by all parties and the EEMC, will also conduct a site visit of the Tank 102 project.

Last month, Carter warned CUC that any type of CUC "boycott" or other failure to comply with court orders is unacceptable and will result in the immediate initiation of contempt proceedings.

Carter issued the warning in his order denying CUC's motion for the court to hold a status conference in the $4.6 million CUC pipeline project.

In its request for a status conference, CUC estimated that under the management of Gilbane Federal more than $8.8 million will be spent for the construction of the new pipeline before it is finally completed.

Carter disclosed that he learned that CUC's management's "joint consensus position" is to "boycott" CUC's pipeline project.

The judge said he learned about the "boycott" consensus after being presented with email correspondence between the parties in the case likely not intended for the court's eyes.

Carter said any actions designed to thwart or obstruct Gilbane Federal from completing the pipeline are contrary to the court's orders.

Carter said he is deeply concerned CUC intends to take such impermissible action.

Carter reminded CUC in the strongest terms that a "boycott" or any other tactics that delay and obstruct pipeline construction and the EEMC are what drive up—and already have driven up—the cost of the project.

The oil pipeline project is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil Oil Marianas facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the adjacent ocean.

Tank 102 project involves a 500,000-gallon diesel fuel tank that will replace Tank 010, which has been found to be a source of pollution and is non-repairable.

Remaining tanks in Tanapag to be removed

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An undated photo of one of the above ground storage tanks at the Tanapag Fuel Farm in Tanapag.

A removal and clearing process of the remaining tanks left in the old Tanapag Fuel Farm above ground storage tank will be discussed with the public this week by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

According to the Division of Environmental Quality of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality director Ray Masga, the Army Corps did their assessments and will be presenting their plan.

"They just recently did a biological assessment on all the tank locations that were identified and the next thing that's going on is they're going to be proposing or submitting their work plan on how to go about doing the tank removal and cleaning of these remaining tank sites," Masga told *Saipan Tribune*.

"There are still remaining tanks in Tanapag and that's what the Corps is coming back out to do…hopefully, this will essentially complete the necessary remediation for this tank site," he added.

The Tanapag Fuel Farm was built in the mid to late 1940s and was used by the U.S. Navy to provide fuel for ships and aircraft during World War II and through the 1950s, after which up to 42 tanks were abandoned.

A 1998 Army Corps survey revealed 25 tanks still visible on the ground.

In 2006, six tanks were removed from the same site by BECQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These tanks were prioritized as there was remaining oil in them and were also adjacent to homes.

Masga said the remaining aboveground oil storage tanks don't contain oil but there are still concerns about their presence.

"They don't necessarily have residual oil in them but they exist and so there is physical hazard in terms of the structure is dilapidated, rusted," Masga said.

There are around 15 1,000- to 10,000-barrel tanks that need to be removed, three of which are in the property of a resident, according to Masga. If there are contaminations in the surrounding soil, these will also be removed.

Masga said the project could be implemented toward the end of this year or next year.

The USACE will hold their Technical Project Planning meeting on the said project on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 5:30pm to be held at the Tanapag Middle School Cafeteria.

Masga said other tank farms that the military built on island will also be looked at in the future like the Kobler Navy Supply Tank Farm in As Perdido Road.

"Those are also, at some point, going to be addressed," Masga said.

Last year, the U.S. Congress allocated $2.5 million for the clean-up of three formerly used defense sites or FUDS in the CNMI.

One site is Tanapag Fuel Farm, which has an allocation of $1.525 million.

Other projects were the cleanup effort in Marpi Point Field which was allocated $343,200 and will involve a study of the extent and types of unexploded ordnances on the property, and the hospital dumpsite located at the Kingfisher Golf Links that got a funding of $587,300 which will include a study to determine the extent of contamination and whether there are any risks to human health.

Ex-convict gets 5 years in prison for beating girlfriend, abusing child

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has slapped a five-year prison term against Bradley James DLR. Palacios, a 24-year-old ex-convict who allegedly beat up his girlfriend and physically abused a child.

Govendo sentenced Palacios to five years in prison for child abuse or neglect, and one year in prison, all suspended, for assault and battery.

Palacios was given credit for 233 days for time served.

After completing the prison term, the defendant will be placed on supervised release for two years.

Palacios was required to pay $3,421.22 in restitution before the expiration of his probationary period. He was ordered to pay court costs and fees of $100.

Palacios pleaded guilty to child abuse or neglect and assault and battery.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on May 20, 2015, on Saipan, Palacios grabbed the minor child by the arm, causing her visible bruising.

On the same day, Palacios also punched his girlfriend in the head and told her to shut up.

Police said investigation showed that Palacios showered the girl and later that evening the mother noticed that her daughter had a bruise on the cheek that appeared to be a bite mark.

When the mother confronted him about the bruise, Palacios stated in Chamorro that the girl was "irresistibly cute and adorable."

On the bruises to the girl's arm, Palacios explained that the girl almost slipped so he grabbed her arm while giving the child a bath.

That night, the girl kept crying and could not sleep so the mother decided to take her to the hospital the following day.

Palacios was arrested in the hospital after the girl was examined at the emergency room.

The girlfriend said she has been dating Palacios since December 2014, and after a few months, he started hitting her.

She wanted to end their relationship, but Palacios grabbed her by the neck and choked her and threatened that if he she leaves him, he would harm her family.

In December 2013, Govendo sentenced Palacios to 14 months imprisonment for hitting his then-pregnant girlfriend in June 2013 and for punching a man who refused to shake hands with him in December 2011. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-BECQ/DCRM-027

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 28, 2016 **TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF TWENTY-THREE (23) WORKSTATIONS WITH CONFIGURATION FOR THE BECQ - DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.**

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS
DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind it's **RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS** customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before **Thursday, January 21, 2016**. Payments not received by close of business on **January 21** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Thursday, January 21**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Thursday, January 21**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338**
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO, Defendants,	:	

NINTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set for the her in below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 29, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of December, 2015.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

TASTE THE REAL ITALIAN VEAL MEAL:

Hyatt's Giovanni serves Costoletta alla Milanes

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veal is not something that you would usually see on Saipan's menus much so veal that is cooked in its *auntentico Italiano* glory.

Lucky for us, Hyatt Regency Saipan is joining once again the celebration of the annual International Day of Italian Cuisines and not only did Giovanni's serve up this year's chosen dish during the world-wide celebration yesterday, it will continue on until the end of the month.

For its ninth year, Costoletta alla Milanese was served up by members of the Virtual Group of Italian Chefs all over the world, which includes Hyatt's executive chef Gabriele Colombo—the only chef on island that is part of the organization.

"Every year we come up with this idea to feature authentic Italian dishes," Colombo said.

Colombo, who is from Milan, said that the featured dish is something that could be found in homes as comfort food and as a traditional recipe.

Costoletta alla Milanese is a breaded and golden pan-fried veal cutlet. As simple as it may sound, the delicate flavor and texture of the meat cooked in the authentic Italian way is not something that could be taken for granted.

The white veal meat is about 10 ounces, pounded to about two inches thick and cooked with clarified butter, eggs, and fresh breadcrumbs. The result is a sumptuous dish made even more perfect when drizzled with freshly squeezed lemon.

The dish serves four people, depending on whether it is served as an antipasto or a main course.

According to Colombo, clarified butter gives the meat the buttery-like softness and flavor.

The veal, not typically found on island, is especially ordered by Hyatt for this event for the CNMI to enjoy.

Costoletta alla Milanese is perfect when paired with medium to bold flavored wines—Italian *vinos* are preferred, of course.

Share in the celebration and enjoy this special Italian dish priced at $35 per person. Club at the Hyatt members are welcome. For reservations, please call 234-1234 ext 26.

Hyatt's Giovanni is serving up Costoletta alla Milanes, a breaded and golden pan-fried veal cutlet cooked in its authentic Italian recipe by executive chef Gabriele Colombo. It was the featured dish for this year's International Day of Italian Cuisines.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Presentation on Chamorro origins this Saturday

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council cordially invites the public to a special presentation by a visiting molecular anthropologist that will be held at 6pm in the Magalahi Room, Grandviro Resort on Saturday, Jan. 23.

In his talk titled "Researching the Origins and Genetic Distinctiveness of Chamorros: A Bi-Parental Analysis," Dr. Miguel Vilar will explain how he uses DNA to learn about ancient patterns of settlement and migration in Micronesia, as well as inferring the impact of historic events, settlement and resettlement patterns, and demographic changes in the Marianas islands.

In his earlier work, Dr. Vilar presented research based strictly on the maternal lineage, showing that Chamorros were genetically distinct to other Oceanic and Southeast Asian populations, and were only distantly related to these groups.

In this new work he explains how patterns in the paternal lineages (Y chromosome DNA) show similar results, while patterns in the rest of the genome add a historical dimension to ancestry, influenced by centuries of Spanish colonization and the more recent impact of American and Filipino influence on the islands.

Dr Vilar, a molecular anthropologist and science writer, currently serves as the Project Manager for National Geographic's Genographic Project. His fieldwork has taken him to places throughout the Pacific region, East Africa, Mesoamerica, and the Caribbean.

In the laboratory, Dr. Vilar researches the modern genetic diversity of human populations from Micronesia, Melanesia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

In addition to publishing articles in scientific journals and popular magazines, Dr. Vilar also writes the Genographic Project Blog for National Geographic Society website.

This presentation, free of charge and open to the public, is a part of the council's ongoing Community Lecture Series which strives to offer information on a wide variety of topics of interest to the local community.

Please contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website for more information. ***(PR)***

Valentines Day Musical Revue auditions today

Auditions for the Friends of the Arts' Valentines Day Musical Revue will be held today, Jan. 19, at the Dolphin Theater, on the Marianas High School Campus beginning 6pm.

Performers should prepare a song to perform at the audition.

All ages are encouraged to audition.

This show is scheduled to be performed at Pacific Islands Club Saipan on Feb. 12 and 14. ***(PR)***

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TO BEEF UP ANTI-DRUG SCHEME:

Lawmakers asked to consider nuisance abatement statute

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan has commented on a bill to impose a minimum fine of $250,000 on people who possess business licenses and engage in drug-related activity, urging a fine be set that is more consistent with the severity of the offense.

In a letter to House committee on judiciary and governmental operations on Jan. 8, Manibusan said lawmakers should consider whether a nuisance abatement act would be more effective in preventing drug use at businesses.

Manibusan said House Bill 19-120 sets a minimum fine of $250,000 but does not set a maximum fine, which means it could violate an excessive fines clause in the U.S. Constitution that prevents fines that are "grossly disproportional to the gravity of the offense."

Manibusan said the minimum fine "almost certainly violates" this clause. "This fine applies to any violation of the Commonwealth Controlled Substances Act by an possessor of a business license, so a business owner who possesses on ounce or less of marijuana—normally a $50 fine… would face an additional fine of $250,000 or more."

Manibusan said this fine would be, by far, the largest fine assessed in Commonwealth law. "It is five times greater than the fine for owning a slave [$50,000]. It is also equal to the maximum fine for committing most federal felonies."

He added that because the minimum fine proposed would be greater than $2,000—every drug case brought against the owner of a business would be come a felony, and entitle the defendant to trial by jury.

If lawmakers believe that the current statutory scheme to shut down businesses that allow drug activity is insufficient, Manibusan said, they may consider adopting a "nuisance abatement statute." Under this, if the government demonstrates that a parcel of land is being used repeatedly for illegal purposes, "the court may fine the owner, order the property vacated, or provide other relief."

"The main advantage of using a nuisance abatement action is that the government would not need to obtain a criminal conviction to abate the nuisance and would only need to prove that nuisance exists by preponderance of the evidence."

NEW OFFICERS
The Board of Education has elected their new set of officers for this year at their meeting held last Jan. 14. Aside from board members and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, almost all heads of public schools were also present at the meeting.
FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Fiji military silent about contents of shipping containers

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times)—So, what were in those containers sent to the Republic of Fiji Military Forces?

The containers arrived on St Confidence which berthed at Suva's Kings Wharf yesterday morning and were escorted under heavy security to the Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Delainabua.

» Shipment reportedly guns, ammunition from Russia

Most government officials refrained from commenting, while the Opposition claimed they contained guns and ammunition.

Acting Police Commissioner, Brigadier General Sitiveni Qiliho did not confirm the contents of the containers, but said police were involved in the planning and the whole process of the consignment.

When questioned whether the consignment included guns and ammunitions, Brig-Gen Qiliho said, "if there are weapons coming into the country, it's definitely for the military".

He added, "They (military) are the only institution that is armed with weapons and ammunitions."

Any importation of guns and ammunitions into the country will need to have a licence issued by the Commissioner of Police.

Defence Minister Timoci Natuva said he had directed the Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Viliame Naupoto to brief the media about the consignments.

However, several calls made to Mr Naupoto's mobile phone last night, including two visits to his Ratu Sukuna Rd residence and to the Fiji Golf Club in Vatuwaqa, to get a comment remained unsuccessful.

It is believed the consignment is assistance from Russia to the RFMF.

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

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If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement
Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce a vacancy on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Robert H. Hunter, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **January 29, 2016.** For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Search for 12 Marines from downed helicopters enters 3rd day

HONOLULU (AP)—The ongoing search for 12 Marines who are missing after two helicopters crashed off Hawaii entered the third day with no plans Sunday to call off or suspend the massive effort, the Coast Guard said.

While high surf complicated the mission for rescuers on the water, a green laser off Haleiwa Beach Park on Saturday night struck a Coast Guard plane, forcing crew members to alter search patterns.

"It's a very, very dangerous thing," Coast Guard spokeswoman Tara Molle said of the laser, adding that it can be life-threatening for crews flying at night.

The crew of the HC-130 plane wasn't exposed and didn't have to land, but they changed their search pattern to avoid being hit again.

The Coast Guard reminded the public that targeting a laser at an aircraft is illegal and could result in fine of $11,000 per violation.

Rescuers from various agencies have been searching round-the-clock since the Coast Guard was notified late Thursday of the crash by a civilian who saw the aircraft flying and then disappear and a fireball.

The Marines were alerted when the CH-53E helicopters carrying six crew members each failed to return to their base at Kaneohe Bay following a nighttime training mission. Hours later, a Coast Guard helicopter and C-130 airplane spotted debris 2 1/2 miles off of Oahu.

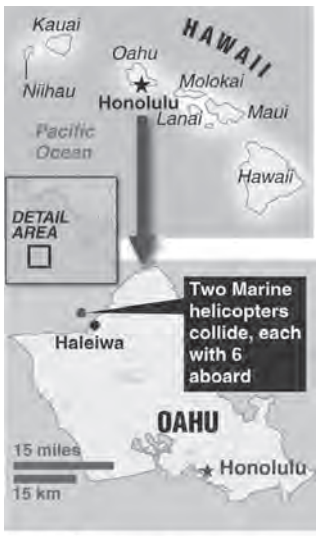
The transport helicopters were part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Known as Super Stallions, they are the U.S. military's largest helicopter, capable of carrying a light armored vehicle, 16 tons of cargo or a team of combat-equipped Marines, according to a Marine Corps website.

The wing's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Russell Sanborn, told reporters Sunday he has personal experience with the "emotional roller coaster" families of the 12 Marines are experiencing.

His wife went through similar emotions when he was shot down 25 years ago during Operation Desert Storm and was listed as missing in action, he said.

The Coast Guard initially reported that the choppers had collided, but Marine Capt. Timothy Irish said Friday that he did not know if the accident was a collision.

"We think they collided because both of them went down," Mario Vittone, a retired Coast Guardsman who is an expert on sea survival, said Sunday from Florida.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

It would have happened very quickly and survival would entail overcoming many factors. "You have to survive the crash, you have to survive the on-rushing of water," he said, adding they would then have to battle dehydration and exposure to the elements.

A high surf warning for Oahu's north and west shores was extended until noon Sunday, when it was downgraded to an advisory.

Waves along north-facing Oahu shores are expected to subside to 10 to 15 feet on Monday and decrease to 8 to 12 feet along west-facing shores.

It's difficult to spot anything in breaking waves, said Vittone, who was a helicopter swimmer and marine accident investigator with the Coast Guard. "It almost like camouflages everything."

The crash was off the north shore, but the search area was expanded to include waters off Oahu's west coast on Saturday.

Expanding the search area lowers the probability of detection, Vittone said.

The Coast Guard uses what's called the Probability of Survival Decision Aid to gauge survival time he said, explaining that they factor in air temperature, water temperature, sea conditions and humidity, along with details about the victims.

"They use age and weight and sex and what they were wearing, along what gear they have on," Vittone said.

Rescuers will continue to search "as long as there's probable cause that they have something to find," Molle, with the Coast Guard in Honolulu, said. As of Sunday afternoon, there were no plans to call off or suspend the search, she said.

"Before we stop, we will notify all of the family members so they will have advance notice that we intend to stop," Capt. James Jenkins, chief of staff for the 14th Coast Guard district in Honolulu, told reporters.

In addition to Coast Guard assets, the search effort includes Navy ships and aircraft, an Army helicopter, the National Guard, along with Honolulu's fire, police and ocean safety personnel. Marine Corps members were combing the beach for debris.

Debris has been found "consistent with these types of aircraft," Jenkins said.

The U.S. Marines Corps released the names of the 12 missing crew members late Saturday. Though based in Hawaii, the Marines were from various states.

Some family members were holding out hope that survivors could be found, while asking for privacy as they waited for updates.

"My husband and I want everyone to know that this is not about us," Donna McGrew, mother of Maj. Shawn Campbell of College Station, Texas, said in a statement. "This is about the families that are suffering, and about all the sacrifices that our military members and their families make on a daily basis."

MEETING NOTICE

Technical Project Planning Meeting

Former Tanapag Fuel Farm Above Ground Storage Tank Removal Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces that it will convene a Technical Project Planning meeting to engage public participation regarding the Former Tanapag Fuel Farm Above Ground Storage Tank (AST) Removal project. A presentation has been prepared to provide an overview of the AST removal process and cleanup standards at the former AST locations.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your comments and to answer your questions regarding elements of the project.

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 21, 2016
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm
Tanapag Middle School Cafeteria
Tanapag, Saipan, CNMI

You may also submit written comments regarding the project to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu Engineer District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 230
CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Fax: 808-835-4129.
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

Amendment No. 1

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2016

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,219,232.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $873,837.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $278,365.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $67,030.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2016.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 21, 2015. You may also obtain the application via our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ***Friday, March 25, 2016, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 25, 2016, will not be accepted.***

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

- ***Saipan: February 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.***
- ***Tinian: February 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in San Jose, Tinian.***
- ***Rota: February 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room located in Tatachog, Rota.***

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-7689 or 234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Sound, vision and David Bowie

At the start of the 1970s, rock 'n' roll was happy with its transformation from the era of matching haircuts and suits (think early Beatles) to long-haired bad boys in leather trousers (think Jim Morrison of the Doors). Then—wham bam!—came David Bowie, in the persona of Ziggy Stardust, an outlandish alien rock star with an orange mullet hairdo and high plastic boots.

Ziggy, who led a band called the Spiders From Mars, was discarded after a while. He was one of several alter egos Bowie created as he stretched rock music from its roots as a gritty, modern version of the blues to encompass the drama and glamour of theater. If you're wondering how spandex and glitter ever found a place in traditional rock, that's the influence of David Bowie.

Not many people would have predicted that Bowie would turn out to be one of the most enduring, and endearing, figures in rock music. Yet news of his death Sunday at age 69 deeply touched many people around the globe.

The singer and songwriter was born David Jones in London but became David Bowie, an androgynous mystery man with movie star looks and shape-shifting taste. A style arbiter, Bowie was one of the first rock stars to understand the power of music videos. He was also one of the first to realize the Internet would decimate the music industry. He avoided the coming debacle in 1997 by issuing Bowie bonds on Wall Street—essentially, he sold to investors the rights to future royalties. Bowie's legacy got a significant late boost from Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, which staged a blockbuster retrospective from London in 2014 called "David Bowie Is."

Bowie never stopped creating, never stopped drawing the attention of the devoted and the just plain curious. On Friday, his birthday, David Bowie released his 25th studio album, "Blackstar," a stunning rock/jazz collaboration that's as innovative as anything else in his catalog.

How to sum up David Bowie? As a songwriter he identified his muse in one catchy refrain from the 1977 album "Low": "Don't you wonder sometimes," he sang, "'bout sound and vision?" He had it.

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LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT... YOU NOW HAVE A KICKSTARTER CAMPAIGN JUST SO PEOPLE CAN SEND YOU MONEY FOR NO REASON?
BUT THERE IS A REASON... I DIDN'T WIN THE POWERBALL!!
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Elevate 'We the people…'

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Though change occurs daily, unstoppable at every turn, one thing remains powerfully at the base of our lives: culture! It is the sturdy foundation that defines us as a people, our land, sea and traditional way of life. It is the very aspect that gives meaning and value to our dignity and heritage.

Change may have hit in tsunami-like fashion, but at day's end cultural tradition stood sturdy as the lasting backstop that brings us back home once more to that humble corner to regroup. This after every challenge is met with resiliency.

We've changed political even religious leaders but our culture remains the bedrock foundation that sustains us. Why its indelible strength?

"First, culture is almost identical to people or nation, as in French or other cultures. Second, culture refers to art, music, literature, educational television, and certain kinds of movies, an island professor explained of the uplifting and edifying aspects of culture as opposed to commerce.

"The link is that culture is what makes possible, on a high level, the rich social life that constitutes a people, their customs, styles, tastes, festivals, rituals, gods—all that binds individuals into a group with roots, in a community in which they think and will generally, with a people a moral unity, and the individual united within himself. A culture is a work of art, of which the fine arts are the sublime expression.

"In all of us there is a hunger marrow deeply rooted searching for who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness."

In setting forth planning our destiny, we must not forget that the future isn't about the career of politicians. Their role is strictly a distraction that arbitrarily removes the often overlook idea that power rests in three simple little words: "We the people." What they secure came from, yes, "we the people". It isn't such a complicated issue, is it?

But when "we the people" changes to "we few" the tenor of representation changes. The lawmakers completely ignore the essence of "we the people" in a democracy. It severs daily conversations we used to have with them most everywhere we meet. We've been alienated. We no longer matter!

It's time to use the strength and wisdom of our culture to shepherd home the message that it's "we the people. Yes, they can drive our car but we tell them where to go and at what speed. After all, it's our car! But we have to change drivers!

Let's not victimize ourselves again by lazily surrendering to negligence. With clear-eyed vision we could benefit from the time-honored wisdom of our culture under the guidance of the torch of ancestral leadership. We must elevate "we the people" once more!

Theirs vs our interest

I've looked into research materials what's the basis of Sino-investments in the Pacific and Asian Region. While there's benefit in how China enlists allies via her economic arms, there's one thing that stands out prominently: it's about her political expansion not the interest of the indigenous people in host countries.

The beginning of this year wasn't so kind to investors and China bears most of it, according to Helen Raleigh, author, a policy fellow and business owner. Said she: "China's Blue chip stock index dropped more than 11 percent and triggered a worldwide sell-off." She related that the difference is in the way things are done: The West uses the free market system while China does it with a man-made market. The communist leadership isn't necessarily in control but constantly meddling exacerbating market turbulence. The slowdown basically slaughtered global-wide investments.

A week ago the China's economic bubble burst a problematic issue to rebuild. Curious of the fate of major Sino-investments here under the slow down in China's economic growth in addition to the chilling crackdown of corruption in both sectors. Would money keep flowing in or would this be derailed by the slow down or corruption probe? It warrants careful review to see how new projects weather serious financial storms back home.

China could push the envelop elsewhere but there's hardly any room in the NMI given the permanent relationship of the islands and our national government. But it's good to take note that the world's second largest economy is treading on unsteady path in recent days. Problematic!

Moreover, our national government has sovereign authority over the NMI. If you feel otherwise, take a quick glimpse at the Covenant Agreement. See Section 101 and if you can't understand what sovereignty represents see if you could secure an explanation from one of the professors of history or political science at NMC.

The slowdown gives the NMI the opportunity to revisit tourism to see what this industry has done by way of assimilation

See ELEVATE on Next Page

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Snapshots from a fermenting Cuba

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

At the darkened Delirio Habanero nightclub on top of Havana's National Theatre, a group of young Cubans listen to an all-girl band dressed in micro miniskirts belt out salsa lyrics. Through the windows behind them, the glowing faces of revolutionary heroes Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos shine down, outlined in neon several stories high on the facades of neighboring buildings. The young people are too busy texting to take any notice, even as the older folks dance.

Cuba is a society going through immense changes — generational, economic and, at some level, even political. These changes were underway even before President Barack Obama made his historic announcement on Dec. 17, 2014, about restoring relations.

On a recent "educational" trip to Cuba (U.S. law still prohibits vacationers from visiting as tourists), I met with a broad cross-section of Cubans, including academics, students, doctors, artists, economists, bloggers and private business people. Here are some snapshot impressions — from my first visit there — that barely touch on the ferment in Cuba today.

—Tourism. Now that Washington has loosened travel restrictions, the flow from the north has soared, with as many as 23 charters a day flying in over the Christmas holidays. In Miami, long queues of families carrying flat-screened TVs, bicycles, auto parts, and huge shrink-wrapped packages for Cuban relatives snaked through the airport.

That's even before Washington and Havana allow scheduled U.S. flights to Cuba, rather than charters, an influx that may be more than Cuban officials can handle. Even now, airport workers look overburdened and buses are beginning to line up on Old Havana's still relatively empty streets.

The impact is already stunning: Old Havana's famously beautiful but scabrous Belle Epoque and Art Deco buildings, including those along the Malecon seaside drive, are being renovated and painted in elegant creams and pastels at an astonishing rate. Much of the work — turning decaying giants into elegant boutique hotels — is being done by Habanuex, a holding company run by Havana's city historian, Eusebio Leal Spengler. He is determined to prevent Havana's old quarter from becoming a high-rise hell.

Other reconstruction, all over Havana, is being done by private homeowners who turn their houses into rentals. The work is often funded by relatives in Miami, because a gallon of paint costs 30 percent of an average Cuban salary of $20 a month. In Vedado, a leafy Havana neighborhood of large, once prosperous houses, my bed-and-breakfast hostess had 12 guests from Latin America, Canada and the United States.

But tourism's upside also reveals Cuba's economic downside: Young professionals are abandoning their work to get into tourism, because it pays astronomically more than what they make. I met engineers and doctors driving taxis and well-known actors waiting tables.

—Economic reform. The desire for a better economic life is the main driver of the flood of educated young Cubans, ages 25 to 35, migrating to the United States, where they get preferential treatment under current immigration rules. "They see that their parents have less than their grandparents did," one young Cuban professional told me, and they want more than free education and health care," which they get in Cuba. Now that their country is more open to the world, many young Cubans want the consumer goods that their relatives have.

No longer subsidized by the Soviet Union, or Venezuela, the Cuban government is laying off state workers. Anywhere from 25 to 50 percent of Cubans work in the private sector full or part time. Besides B&Bs, there is an explosion of private restaurants, located in large homes, like the elegant Havana Blues in Vedado, with a nautical theme and colorful fish tanks. But private restaurateurs are struggling because they are heavily taxed and must buy food from the state at retail prices; there are no private wholesale markets.

Of course, Cubans blame much of their economic problems on the continuing U.S. embargo. Even were the embargo to be lifted, however, the government would have to decide to loosen much more control in order for the economy to thrive.

"We are going from blaming every problem on the USA," said one knowledgeable Havanan, "to saying we have to change."

Political freedom — and the Internet. "This is a difficult time," a thoughtful Cuban told me, "because the young want immediate change or they leave, while the older generation don't want change at all." This dichotomy isn't wholly correct. But Cubans are anxiously looking ahead to 2018, when President Raoul Castro has said he will retire, and to the Communist Party Congress in April, and hoping both will elevate a younger generation of leaders who will deliver real change.

No formal political opposition is allowed in Cuba (human-rights groups say dissidents today tend to be harassed and detained for short periods rather than long prison terms). The migrant exodus helps ease pressure on the government for reforms.

But there is intense debate about the future among intellectuals in groups such as Cuba Possible, or around Temas magazine. The government controls all media, but the number of bloggers is constantly expanding, even as government limits on the Internet sharply limit their reach.

Home — or office — Internet is limited to certain categories of workers (although some find ways to circumvent this). Young Cubans cluster at night in dozens of recently opened public Wi-Fi zones — often in parks — to surf the web, but the government says home access won't expand greatly until 2020. Over and over, Cubans young and old told me these limits symbolize government reluctance to relax control. But that level of control is getting harder and harder to maintain.

—U.S.-Cuban relations. The future of this relationship will be essential. The new ties both excite and frighten most Cubans I spoke to. They don't want to be dominated by the United States, or have Americans buy up their old cars and buildings. But they hope that closer ties will mean better economic times for Cuba. They look for more openings to promote their rich cultural heritage — and their baseball teams. They say Obama will be warmly welcomed if a proposed visit materializes.

In a time of ferment, such a visit is sure to have intriguing results.

Republicans debate who will play the alpha

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg View

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg View *columnist.*

The most primal scene in American politics is a debate stage, where candidates wrestle in rhetorical mud for dominance. Of course, when the candidates are auditioning for the presidency, their aggression is sublimated, their rapiers metaphorical. (When political attacks merge with the physical kind, the combatants are no longer in a democratic republic as Americans understand the term.)

Among the innovations Donald Trump has brought to the Republican Party — along with an infusion of reality TV culture, a cult of personality and a refurbished authoritarianism — is a cruder brand of machismo than presidential-level politics has generally been willing to indulge.

Not that machismo in the service of personal or partisan advantage is anything new. William McKinley's 1896 campaign literature described him as "one of the best examples of courageous, persevering, vigorous manhood that the nation has ever produced."

When George W. Bush appeared in a flight suit to celebrate what his White House, at the time, deemed a heroic "mission accomplished" in Iraq, conservative talk show host (and Watergate conspirator) G. Gordon Liddy noted that Bush's sculpted costume made "the best of his manly characteristic."

Manliness, or the projection of it, does not necessarily discount wisdom and discernment; it simply gives those necessary political qualities a primal ground. Debates are typically a revealing arena for that. "Each debate to date has been a scramble for mastery," wrote David Frum in September. "Who acts like a commander? Who submits to command?"

A parallel competition is evident at Democratic debates. But a female alpha is not the only sharp distinction between the parties. The GOP's ever expanding use of symbolic postures (warm congratulations on another successful Obamacare repeal vote, by the way) and conservative cultural referents and imagery (cowboy boots are the appropriate uniform for a Princeton-and-Harvard-educated lawyer who's married to a Goldman Sachs exec) threaten to eclipse more relevant kinds of signaling about leadership, such as expertise or experience. That's also how you end up with proposals to carpet-bomb our way to success in the Middle East.

In a series of tweets reacting to a Republican brouhaha over Marco Rubio's too elegant boots, Vox's David Roberts remarked: "This pretending, this sexually insecure overcompensation, has been going on so long that it's become the point." Roberts meant that conservative voters well understand that Ivy-League-pedigreed Ted Cruz is no cowboy, but Cruz and other conservative politicians are nonetheless required to embody conservative archetypes as a kind of homage.

In early debates, Trump's interruptions, derision and bluster seemed to rattle Jeb Bush, a largely successful two-term governor of one of the nation's largest states. (Politico: "Bush Allies Worry: Is Jeb Tough Enough?") But Bush, a policy sophisticate, is now getting the hang of things. The super PAC supporting his candidacy, run by a veteran consultant who has known Bush for more than two decades, this week released an Internet ad focused on … Rubio's boots.

There was chatter on Twitter about the ad's stupidity. But it achieved its goal. It featured a rework of the 1966 Nancy Sinatra hit "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'" (among core GOP voters, 1966 was yesterday) and a pair of gyrating boots like the Rubio pair that had caused a stir. The lyrics were retooled to highlight Rubio's flip-flops. The combination of the twirling high heels and Rubio's inability to stand his ground on key policies painted the Florida senator as a girly-man. In a subsequent interview with MSNBC's "Morning Joe," the 6'3" Bush personally advanced the attack. He didn't need heels himself, Bush said, because "I don't have a height issue." (Rubio is 5'10".)

Rubio increasingly risks being on the wrong end of a showdown. To survive the faux Wild West of today's GOP, he'll have to man up — or, more to the point, pretend to in a manner instantly recognizable from Hollywood melodrama. Rubio can keep his comfortable life as a well-groomed lawyer living in an upscale West Miami neighborhood. But when he takes the stage to debate, he'd do well to don a ten-gallon hat and a six-shooter.

ELEVATE

From Page 10

into the local community beyond exclusionary ventures.

Serious health issues

There's an increase in the number of our people contracting Type II Diabetes, kidney failure, heart problems, cervical and oral cancer. Tidings of a woman is diagnosed with cervical cancer every seven weeks here should trigger the alarm bell.

While dialysis is a treatment that is available, I've seen how this treatment eventually works the heart to extinction. It's your ticket to death!

Diabetics who reach the chronic level much sooner than later deal with sores that won't heal. It leads to amputation of the infected area. I've seen two friends whose lower jaws were completely removed from oral cancer hailing from betel nut use. We should take stock and jointly address gear shifting for a healthier you!

■ ■ ■

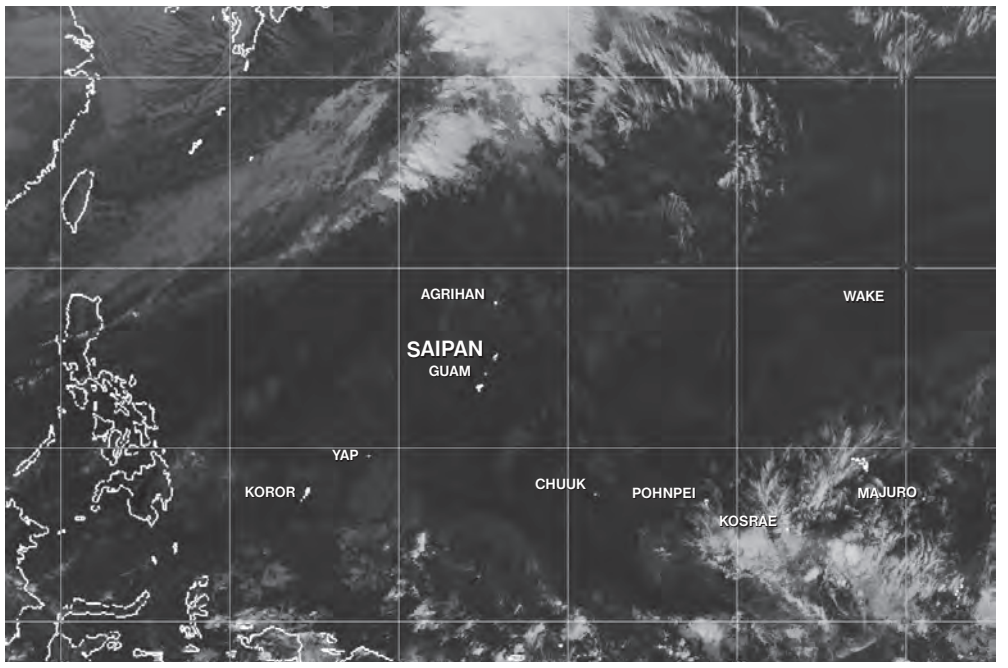
Asked Magoo how to lose weight. Said he, "When you're hungry, eat. If you're not hungry, don't eat!" Let's begin making lifestyle changes. It's our health!

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:07 PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N139E to beyond 130E at 19N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present well northwest of the Marianas along and up to 180 miles northwest of the boundary. A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N180 to 21N158E then turns northwestward as a warm front to beyond 25N at 144E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are occurring along and up to 100 miles northwest of the frontal boundary east of 22N170E while cloudiness and scattered showers exist south of Minami Tori Shima along and up to 110 miles northeast of the warm front. Low-level convergence ahead of a region of stronger trade winds is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 120 miles of a line from 4N155E to 4N165E to 1N176E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers southeast of Yap and southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 8N from 137E to 149E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲31	▼13
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼60
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲40	▼30
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼66
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲30	▼20
Osaka	Windy	▲39	▼36
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲37	▼28
Pusan	Windy	▲35	▼18
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼32
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲22	▼ 7
Tokyo	Windy	▲46	▼31
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲27	▼13

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
3:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:52 PM	1:56 AM
Wednesday	2:44 PM	2:54 AM
Thursday	3:38 PM	3:52 AM
Friday	4:33 PM	4:48 AM
Saturday	5:28 PM	5:41 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

With wave of Iranian oil imminent, a shudder in Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new wave of oil from Iran will flow into a global market awash in oil where prices are plunging to depths not seen in a dozen years. With a historic nuclear deal between Iran, the U.S. and five other world powers set into place this weekend, a European oil embargo on the world's seventh-largest oil producer will end.

The impact may be felt widely when crude begins trading in Asian markets Monday, but the return of Iran to global energy markets created tremors even before the first trade was made. Saudi Arabia's stock market plunged more than 5 percent Sunday. Saudi Arabia is the biggest oil producer within OPEC, the oil cartel with waning influence to which Iran also belongs.

Saturday was dubbed Implementation Day, when Iran was freed from international sanctions after being deemed as having dismantled most of its nuclear program under the deal established last summer. "Implementation Day for the nuclear agreement means a new oil day for Iran," Daniel Yergin, vice chairman of research firm IHS and author of a Pulitzer Prize-winning book on the history of oil, said Sunday.

The oil market has anticipated the unchained tide of Iranian oil for months, and some of that may be reflected in new lows for oil prices in the past week. U.S. crude oil prices have trended down for a year and a half, and have fallen almost 40 percent in just the past three months. On Friday, the price slid 6 percent to $29.42 a barrel. That compares with a high of over $100 a barrel in the summer of 2014, and close to $150 per barrel before the U.S. recession.

There are predictions of barrels going for $20 soon.

Falling crude prices have led to lower prices for gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and heating oil. This has helped boost consumer spirits and encourage spending, but may also have slowed the overall recovery of the U.S. economy last year as major energy companies slash investments and jobs. The astonishing fall of oil has created jitters globally as economic growth for a major consumer, China, ebbs. That has rippled to U.S. stock markets as well over apprehension that the economic contagion will spread.

AP
In this Dec. 22, 2014 file photo, an Iranian oil worker rides his bicycle at the Tehran's oil refinery south of the capital Tehran, Iran.

For Iranian oil, a big question is how much and how fast. Already, some 38 million barrels of oil are in Iran's floating reserves, ready to enter the market, according to the International Energy Agency. Iran has signaled it aims to put as much as 1 million to 1.5 million barrels daily into the market. But the IEA estimates that 400,000 to 500,000 barrels a day is more likely; some experts see 300,000 or so barrels coming in during the next six months.

In any amount, "it's coming at a time when the market is still oversupplied," said Larry Goldstein, director of the Energy Policy Research Foundation, who predicted a decline in oil in 2014.

That could mean even more acute pressure on U.S. oil drilling companies to cut back on new projects and jobs.

Employee's minor infraction doesn't need to lead to fight

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: According to a trusted colleague, one of my employees recently called in sick when he was actually taking a trip to the beach. Although "Greg" is a bright guy with lots of potential, I have previously had some concerns about his work ethic. However, this was just a general impression with no specific evidence.

Even though I feel certain that Greg lied, I'm not sure how to handle it. If I make an accusation without any proof, that may offend him and damage our relationship. On the other hand, Greg shouldn't be allowed to get away with lying, and I don't want to be a spineless manager. What should I do?

A: Discussing performance problems can be awkward when the information is second-hand. Typically, employees will deny wrongdoing and demand to know who made the allegations. From there, the discussion can easily deteriorate into a pointless argument about infractions which cannot be conclusively proven.

To avoid wandering into this pit of conversational quicksand, try using the "if-then" approach. Instead of directly accusing Greg of misconduct, describe what you have been told, then explain the likely consequence if such a transgression were to occur. This method is especially useful with a relatively minor first offense.

For example: "Greg, I've heard that when you called in sick last week, you were actually on your way to the beach. I don't know if that's true, and I'm not trying to find out. However, I want to emphasize that lying is a serious breach of trust which would warrant a disciplinary warning. We don't need to discuss it further, but I do want to be clear about the consequences if this were to happen in the future."

If Greg proclaims his innocence, say there's no need to debate the issue. If he asks who provided the information, tell him that's confidential. Your goal is to simply deliver the message, be sure Greg understands, then end the meeting. Hopefully, this bright young man will take your warning seriously, but for now, his absences should be closely scrutinized.

Q: A pregnant employee keeps complaining about our maternity leave and insurance benefits. As the human resources manager, how should I respond to her ongoing criticism of our policies? Is it our fault she didn't research this before getting pregnant? Are we responsible for fixing her financial problems? I'm sick and tired of her constant whining, so how can I stop it?

A: If you have adequately explained the benefits, then you have no further obligation to tolerate endless complaints. However, you really must calm down, because right now you sound like an exasperated, ranting coworker instead of a human resources professional. In that frame of mind, you represent a legal time bomb.

Being in HR, you are undoubtedly aware of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which covers employers with fifteen or more employees. Assuming your business qualifies, the provisions of this act must guide all interactions with your disgruntled employee. Therefore, you should immediately seek guidance from the attorney who advises your company on labor matters, no pun intended.

California farmers brace for water shortage despite El Nino

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Farmers in California's fertile San Joaquin Valley are bracing to receive no irrigation water from a federal system of reservoirs and canals for a third consecutive year and looking to El Nino to produce the very wet winter they need.

The year kicked off with heavy rains and an above-average snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. The El Nino—a global weather system associated with wet winters in California—may play out nationwide through late spring or beyond, officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration say.

Another welcomed series of storms is expected to dump more rain and snow on California through Thursday, according to National Weather Service forecasters.

While many are celebrating a break to the long dry spell, however, the four driest years on record for California have left their mark, and experts say it will take time for the parched state to recover.

"We need a wet winter this winter and next and the following winter probably to get us anywhere close to equilibrium," said Dave Kranz, a spokesman for the California Farm Bureau Federation.

State water managers say California's snowpack needs to be at 150 percent of normal on April 1 to signal an end to drought. Friday it was at 110 percent, according to the Department of Water Resources' statewide electronic reading.

Lake Shasta, the state's largest reservoir, remains at half of its historical average for this time of year. Other major reservoirs in Oroville and Folsom that collect and store rain and snowmelt had reached or came close to historical low levels before the winter storms hit.

The lack of surface water supplies for irrigation during the drought has forced many farmers to use groundwater to keep their crops alive, drawing down wells and leading many to run dry.

Man dies after taking part in botched French clinical trial

PARIS (AP)—A man died in a French hospital Sunday after taking part in an experimental drug trial for a painkiller, and five other participants remain hospitalized after one of France's most troubling medical incidents. French prosecutors have launched a manslaughter investigation into the unusual case, which shined a spotlight on the practice of testing drugs on paid, healthy human volunteers. Scores of others were also given the drug.

The Portuguese pharmaceutical company testing the drug, Bial, said in a statement that it's working with health authorities to determine what caused "this tragic and unfortunate situation."

The Rennes University Hospital in western France announced the death in a statement, but didn't identify the patient, who had already been in a state of brain death.

He was among six male volunteers between 28 and 49 hospitalized last week after volunteering to take the drug. French health authorities have said three of the hospitalized volunteers face possible brain damage.

The Paris prosecutor's office said the investigation was expanded after the death to include potential manslaughter charges.

The trial, which began Jan. 7, involved 90 healthy volunteers who were given the experimental drug in varying doses at different times.

The hospital said it has contacted the 84 other volunteers exposed to the new painkiller. Ten of those volunteers underwent medical exams Saturday, but the hospital found no anomalies, the statement says. It said another five will have medical exams closer to their homes, but didn't say whether the others are being monitored or tested.

The drug was given orally to healthy volunteers as part of a Phase 1 trial by Biotrial, a drug evaluation company based in Rennes, on behalf of Bial.

Health Minister Marisol Touraine said that in addition to treating pain, the drug was intended to ease mood and anxiety troubles as well as motor problems linked to neurodegenerative illnesses by acting on the endocannabinoid system. In this system, natural brain compounds act on specific receptors to exert their effects. Touraine said the drug was not based on marijuana or cannabis, as some reported.

Nation

Clinton, Sanders clash on guns, health care

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Turning up the temperature, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders tangled repeatedly in Sunday night's presidential debate over who's tougher on gun control and Wall Street and how to steer the future of health care in America. It was the last Democratic matchup before voting begins in two weeks, and both sides were eager to rumble as polls showed the race tightening in the lead-off states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

Clinton rapped Sanders, the Vermont senator, for voting repeatedly with the National Rifle Association, and then welcomed his weekend reversal of position to support legislation that would deny gun manufacturers legal immunity. She rattled off a list of provisions that she said Sanders had supported in line with the NRA.

Sanders, in turn, said Clinton's assertion that he kowtowed to the gun lobby was "very disingenuous" and pointed to his lifetime rating of a D- from the NRA.

On health care, Sanders released his plan for a government-run single-payer plan just hours before the debate, and used his opening statement to call for health care "for every man, woman and child as a right." Clinton, by contrast, urged less sweeping action to build on President Barack Obama's health care plan by reducing out-of-pocket costs and control spending on prescription drugs.

Clinton suggested Sanders' approach was dangerous - and pie-in-the-sky unrealistic.

"With all due respect, to start over again with a whole new debate is something that would set us back," Clinton said.

Sanders dismissed the idea that he'd endanger hard-won victories, insisting: "No one is tearing this up; we're going to go forward."

Clinton suggested Sanders' health care plan would impose a heavier tax burden on the middle class, saying "I want to raise incomes, not taxes."

AP

Democratic presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. confer during a break at the NBC, YouTube Democratic presidential debate at the Gaillard Center, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016, in Charleston, S.C.

Sanders insisted taxpayers would come out ahead with lower costs overall. "It's a pretty good deal," he said.

The two tangled over financial policy, too, with Sanders suggesting Clinton won't be tough enough on Wall Street given the big contributions and speaking fees she's accepted. Clinton, in turn, faulted Sanders' past votes to deregulate financial markets and ease up on federal oversight.

Then, she took a step back to put those differences in a different perspective.

"We're at least having a vigorous debate about reining in Wall Street," she declared. "The Republicans want to give them more power."

Clinton worked aggressively to associate herself with President Obama, claiming credit for her role in the run-up to the Iran nuclear deal as well as praising the health care law.

Overall, the tone of the debate was considerably more heated than the past three face-offs in the Democratic primary. But it also included moments of levity.

2 dead, several injured after severe weather in Florida

TAMARA LUSH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Severe weather sparked a pair of tornadoes that ripped through central Florida before dawn Sunday, officials said. A couple was killed and their son and four grandchildren were injured when one of the twisters destroyed their mobile home.

"I'm amazed to see anybody got out of this alive," said Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube during a news conference.

Steube said that the victims of the tornado in Duette were asleep in their mobile home when the tornado struck. Steven Wilson, 58, was killed immediately, while his wife, Kate, died from a heart attack after being taken to a hospital. Their son, also named Steven Wilson, crawled out of the wreckage and helped his four children out of the home. The children are between the ages of 6 and 10.

The younger Wilson and the children are being treated at a hospital. Their injuries aren't thought to be life threatening.

The National Weather Service in Ruskin, Florida, said a tornado touched down in Duette in Manatee County at 3:45 a.m.

Minutes later, another twister struck near the beach community of Siesta Key in Sarasota County.

Siesta Key is a barrier island known for its pricey condos and wide, gorgeous beaches. On Sunday morning, about 17,000 residents in the area were without power, the Sarasota County Emergency Management office said on its Facebook page.

Sarasota County officials reported damage to multiple homes near Siesta Key. At least one home was destroyed and a woman had to be pulled from the wreckage by first responders. Other damage reports include roofs being blown off homes.

The Sarasota Police Department early Sunday reported downed trees, minor flooding and mangled parking structures in the city.

Rodney Wynn, a NWS meteorologist, said a survey team determined that Duette, about 50 miles southeast of Tampa, was struck by a category EF2 tornado, with winds of between 111 mph and 135 mph. Teams were still surveying the tornado that hit Siesta Key, he said.

Tornadoes aren't unheard of in beach communities, but they aren't common either.

"It does happen, especial in an El Nino year," Wynn said. "It's not common, but it's very possible."

When to stop mammograms tricky issue as US ages

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lost in the arguing over whether women should begin mammograms at age 40 or 50 or somewhere in between is the issue they'll all eventually face: when to stop.

"There's a point at which everybody begins to scratch their head and say how much longer do you have to keep doing this?" said American Cancer Society specialist Robert Smith.

It's an increasingly complex balancing act as older women are living even longer. The risk of breast cancer rises with age. But so do the odds of other serious illnesses that may be more likely to kill in a senior's remaining life span—or to make them less able to withstand the rigors of cancer treatment.

"If we pick up a cancer in someone who's 75 and they die at 76 of something else, did it really matter? That's really the question here," said Dr. Susan Boolbol, breast surgery chief at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center in New York.

Medical guidelines don't agree.

The cancer society's advice: Women should continue mammograms as long as their overall health is good and they have a life expectancy of at least 10 more years. Last week, guidelines issued by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force said there's not enough evidence to recommend for or against mammograms at age 75 and older, because that age group just hasn't been studied enough to tell.

Getting such evidence is "critical, given the graying of America," said Dr. Jeanne Mandelblatt, an expert on cancer and aging at Georgetown University.

Indeed, some in the 80-and-beyond crowd are as spry as 60-somethings.

"People are taking better care of themselves," said Yale University pathologist Dr. Fattaneh Tavassoli. "If we don't start discussing it, it's going to be more difficult to come up with management approaches for these patients."

She recently reported that Yale's medical center is diagnosing more breast cancer at 90 and older, averaging about eight diagnoses a year since 2000, compared with one a year during the 1990s. Many were diagnosed after the woman or doctor detected an abnormality, not from routine mammograms, Tavassoli said. But she's asked if other hospitals see a similar trend and also wants to study what treatment they underwent.

ACROSS THE NATION

After 3 days of searching, no sign of missing ski instructor

NORDEN, Calif. (AP)—The search for a ski instructor who went missing at a Northern California ski resort has been suspended until morning, following a day hampered by bad weather. The Placer County Sheriff's Office says avalanche danger was high Sunday and stormy weather kept searchers from looking for 23-year-old Carson May by air. Nonetheless crews on the ground searched an area that recently had an avalanche and was where May's phone last pinged. He was last seen skiing while off duty on Thursday afternoon at Sugar Bowl Ski Resort near Norden. Friends reported him missing Friday morning after he didn't make it home and his belongings were discovered in his locker at the ski resort. Authorities said about 50 people will resume the search Monday morning.

St. Louis police: Officer fatally shoots KFC robbery suspect

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Police say an officer fatally shot a suspect in an armed robbery of a St. Louis fast-food restaurant. St. Louis Police Lt. Col. Lawrence O'Toole says a citizen flagged down an officer in a marked car Sunday evening and reported the robbery at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant. O'Toole says the officer went to the KFC and confronted the 52-year-old suspect, who raised a handgun toward the officer. O'Toole says the suspect refused orders to drop the weapon and the officer fired two shots, killing the man. The 42-year-old officer is a 13-year veteran. He was not injured. O'Toole says there is video from the restaurant and there were witnesses inside. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports about 40 onlookers gathered at the scene after the shooting, with some chanting protests against police.

Utah police officer, suspect dead in gunfire exchange

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A Utah police officer was killed Sunday after he was shot by a suspect who was later killed by police. Salt Lake County Sheriff Jim Winder said Unified police officer Douglas Barney was shot in the head shortly before 10 a.m. in the suburb of Holladay. He was taken to a hospital where he died of his injuries a few hours later. According to Winder, Barney was helping to search for 31-year-old Cory Lee Henderson and a woman. Witnesses said both were riding in a BMW that became involved in a traffic accident with another vehicle. Police said occupants in the other car were seriously injured while Henderson and the woman fled. Shortly after Barney was shot, responding officers encountered Henderson who was on foot. Winder said gunfire erupted with Henderson and police exchanging multiple rounds. Officer Jon Richey suffered three gunshot wounds, including one in the torso. Henderson died at the scene. Winder said Richey was conscious and alert when he saw him in the hospital. He has since undergone surgery and his condition was improving.

Asia

Seoul: N. Korea has sent 1 million propaganda leaflets

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has launched an estimated 1 million propaganda leaflets by balloon into South Korea amid increased tension between the rivals following the North's recent nuclear test, Seoul officials said Monday.

A Cold War-style standoff flared since the North's claim on Jan. 6 that it had tested a hydrogen bomb. South Korea resumed blasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts and K-pop songs from border loudspeakers. North Korea quickly responded by restarting its own border broadcasts and floating the balloons over the border carrying anti-South leaflets, according to Seoul officials.

Seoul's Defense Ministry said Monday the North's military has been sending the balloons on a near-daily basis. Spokesman Kim Min-seok said the leaflets have reached Seoul in addition to areas close to the border.

Such leafleting by the North is rare, as the two Koreas officially stopped psychological warfare as part of tension-reduction measures in 2004. South Korean activists have still occasionally sent propaganda balloons toward the North, triggering angry responses from the North.

South Korean officials believe their broadcasts will sting in the rigidly controlled, authoritarian country by demoralizing frontline troops and residents. There are doubts in Seoul that the North Korean leaflets can have any affect people in more affluent South Korea.

Many foreign governments and analysts remain highly skeptical about the H-bomb claim, but whatever the North detonated underground will likely push the country closer toward a fully functional nuclear arsenal, which it still is not thought to have. The North previously conducted atomic bomb tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013.

South Korea, the U.S. and other countries are pushing hard to get North Korea punished over the bomb test. Soon after the test, diplomats at a U.N. Security Council pledged to swiftly pursue new sanctions on the North. But it's unclear whether China, the North's last major ally and a veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, would cooperate on any tough sanctions that could force a change in the North.

AP

In this Jan. 11, 2016 photo, members of South Korean conservative group look at the image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and North Korean flags during a rally denouncing North Korea, in Paju, South Korea.

China, economy tests for Taiwan presidential winner Tsai

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's presidential election victor Tsai Ying-wen will enjoy a broad mandate from her commanding victory and her independence-leaning party's new legislative majority, but managing the island's delicate relations with China will be tricky.

Already, Beijing warned following her Saturday night victory that it will not budge on its bottom line that Taiwan's leader must agree that the communist mainland and self-governing island democracy are part of a single Chinese nation. The sides could be in for a lengthy wait as China assesses whether it feels it can trust Tsai.

"To handle cross-Taiwan Strait relations after Tsai's election will be difficult, not just for Taiwan but also for mainland China," said Huang Jing, a China expert at Singapore National University's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Tsai, who will be Taiwan's first female president, won by 56 percent of the vote to 31 percent for her closest rival Eric Chu of the China-friendly Nationalist Party, which has held the presidency for the last eight years. Her Democratic Progressive Party won 68 of 113 parliamentary seats, giving it its first majority in the assembly long-dominated by the Nationalists.

"I wasn't surprised a bit by the outcome. The Nationalists had to go. Now Tsai just needs to focus on the economy so I don't expect she'll do anything to rile up China," Taipei tour bus driver Tan Kuang-jung said as a constant drizzle fell over the capital Sunday.

The reasons for the massive win were many.

Outgoing President Ma Ying-jeou had been growing increasingly unpopular among Taiwan's 23 million people, largely due to perceptions that his push for closer economic ties with China was benefiting just a few and the futures of young Taiwanese who have seen wages stagnate and good full-time jobs harder to find.

Fearful of their original candidate's poor reception among voters, the Nationalists dumped her in favor of Chu, but even he proved unable to raise their prospects. He resigned as party chairman immediately after Saturday's defeat.

Newly politicized young people had coalesced in opposing yet another trade agreement with China and are believed to have voted heavily for the DPP.

A further backlash against the party's pro-China stance was prompted by a viral video of 16-year-old Taiwanese entertainer Chou Tzu-yu bowing in apology for waiving the Taiwanese flag on television. Her apology was triggered by her South Korean management company's fears that China would cancel appearances and endorsement deals.

"What happened surrounding Chou Tzu-yu, that whole controversy, made it almost a given (Tsai) would get over the 50 percent mark," said Raymond Wu, managing director of Taipei-based political risk consultancy e-telligence.

Family seeks answers over African kidnapping of 2 Australians

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The family of an Australian doctor and his wife kidnapped in Burkina Faso said on Sunday they did not know why the couple were abducted or where they were taken.

Surgeon Ken Elliott and his wife Jocelyn disappeared on Friday night, the family in Western Australia state said in a statement.

"Recent news from the country indicates an alleged abduction of Ken and Jocelyn on Friday night, however no reason is yet given for this and their whereabouts is still unknown," the statement said.

Authorities do not know if the abductions are linked to the attack on the country's capital Ouagadougou by al-Qaida fighters on Friday night that left at least 28 people dead.

Burkina Faso Minister of Security and Internal Affairs Simon Compaore said on Saturday that the couple, reported to be in their 80s, have been kidnapped in the northern town of Djibo where they have run a medical center for four decades.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said on Sunday its diplomatic post in Ghana was working with local authorities on the investigation.

The family said the couple began their hospital work in Djibo in 1972. They operate a surgical clinic with 120 beds, where Ken Elliott is the sole surgeon and is supported by local staff.

"They have dedicated their lives to providing medical relief to people in the remote northern area of Burkina Faso," the statement said. It added that their commitment to the local people is reflected in the fact that they have continued there with only a few holidays since 1972. "They are held in high esteem by the local people."

Richard Lugg, who studied medicine with Ken Elliott at the University of Western Australia in the couple's hometown of Perth, described him as a friendly and dedicated man who had given a lifetime of service to the people of Burkina Faso.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police say 1 man killed in Jakarta was civilian, not bomber

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police say one of the eight men killed in the Jakarta bombings was a civilian and not one of the bombers as first thought. Jakarta police spokesman Col. Muhammad Iqbal said the civilian was suspected of involvement because he crossed the road to a traffic police post next to one of four confirmed attackers, Dian Joni Kurniadi. The victim, 43-year-old Sugito, was one of four civilians killed in the audacious attack Thursday that targeted a Starbucks and the traffic police post in bustling central Jakarta. Sugito uses one name, like many Indonesians. Iqbal told reporters Sunday that a thorough police investigation into Sugito's records concluded he was an ordinary resident of West Java's Karawang city.

Attorney: Maldives breached terms with jailed ex-president

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—An attorney says the Maldives government has reneged on its promise to allow the country's imprisoned ex-president to have surgery abroad without conditions and is now demanding that a family member guarantee his return or face prosecution. Former President Mohamed Nasheed was to have left Sunday for Britain to have spinal surgery after the government announced he could seek treatment abroad. But Nasheed's attorney, Hassan Latheef, says the government has now set a 30-day limit for Nasheed 's stay abroad and also is demanding that a family member remain in the capital as surety and face prosecution if Nasheed fails to return. Elected the country's first democratically elected president in 2008, Nasheed now is serving a 13-year prison sentence for ordering the arrest of a senior judge when he was president in 2012.

World

As sanctions are lifted, Iranian foes fear the worst

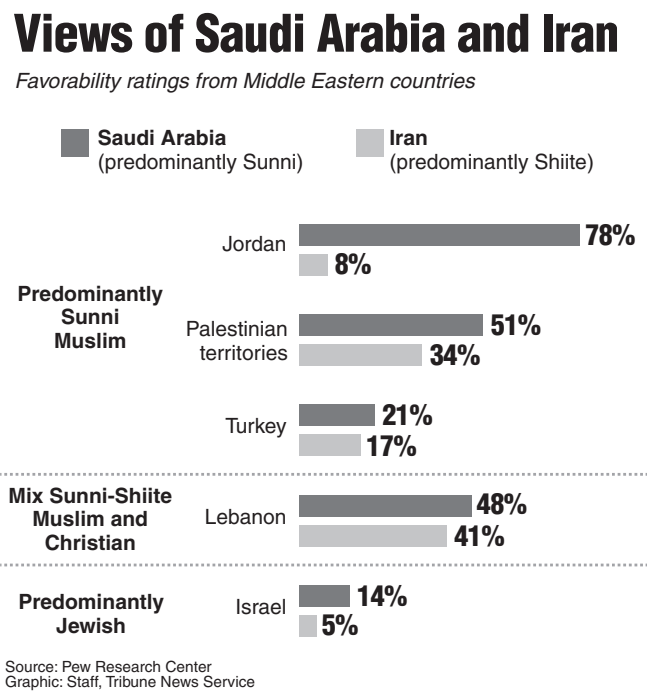
JERUSALEM (AP)—As the nuclear deal with Tehran goes into effect, many Middle Eastern countries fear a newly emboldened Iran, flush with cash and international recognition, will grow more aggressive with what they see as meddling in conflicts across the region.

The deal, clinched last summer after intense negotiations, forced Iran to dismantle most of its nuclear program, a step that proponents say will prevent it from gaining the capability to make a bomb for well over a decade. The International Atomic Energy Agency on Saturday certified that Iran had met its obligations, paving the way for Western sanctions to be lifted and giving Iran access to $100 billion in frozen assets.

While the United States, which led the negotiations, has tried to promote the deal as the beginning of a new chapter in relations with the Islamic Republic, the agreement has been greeted with suspicion and trepidation across much of the Middle East. For Israel and Sunni states such as Saudi Arabia, Shiite Iran is seen as a destabilizing force. They fear Tehran will now redouble what they see as efforts to dominate the region by supporting anti-Israel militant groups, Syrian President Bashar Assad and Shiite Houthi rebels battling a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

AP

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, center, is surrounded by lawmakers as he leaves the parliament after presenting draft of the country's next year budget and sixth development plan in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016.



Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

On the other hand, Iran's hostility to the Islamic State group has since 2014 put it in effect on the same side as the U.S.-led coalition battling the group in Iraq, where Iranian-backed Shiite militias have proven to be effective ground forces against the Sunni extremists. Improved relations between Washington and Tehran could allow for greater coordination. Iraq's Shiite-led government has welcomed the nuclear deal, suggesting it could help resolve the region's many conflicts.

Here is a look at Sunday's reactions to the deal in the region:

ISRAEL

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was an outspoken critic of the deal, making veiled threats to attack Iran and arguing against the agreement in a speech to the U.S. Congress last year over White House objections. He says the deal will not curb Iran's ultimate nuclear aspirations and does not impede Iran's longstanding support for Israel's worst enemies, like the Lebanese Hezbollah group—which is also involved in Syria on Assad's side—and the Palestinian Hamas.

Netanyahu told his Cabinet Sunday that Israel "will continue to monitor all of Iran's international violations" and called for "aggressive sanctions against each violation."

He said Israel remains committed to preventing Iran from making a nuclear weapon and that "what is clear is that Iran will now have more resources to divert to terrorism and its aggression in the region and around the world."

THE GULF

While Gulf states cautiously welcomed last year's nuclear deal, they are deeply suspicious of Iran's activities, particularly on the Arabian Peninsula.

A Saudi-led coalition is fighting Iranian-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen in a conflict that Gulf countries view as a proxy battle against Tehran. Officials in Bahrain, a Sunni-ruled but Shiite-majority country, have accused Iran of attempting to smuggle in weapons in recent months.

Saudi Arabia's decision to execute a prominent Shiite cleric earlier this month has only exacerbated tensions, prompting protesters to attack the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and its consulate in Mashhad, leading Riyadh to cut diplomatic ties to Iran.

On Sunday, 140 Saudi clerics and preachers released a signed statement calling for confronting the "criminality and treachery of the Iranian Safawi regime," a derogatory term referring to the 16th-century Persian dynasty that oversaw the expansion of Shiite Islam.

The foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has taken to Twitter in recent days to criticize Iran and poke fun at his Iranian counterpart. "Don't torch, take over or ransack embassies and consulates. Don't take diplomats hostage. #Diplomacy101," read one post.

SYRIA

Iran is increasingly involved in the Syrian civil war and Syrian rebels fear that once relieved of sanctions, Tehran will escalate its support for Assad and Hezbollah.

Syrian opposition leaders have voiced concerns that Iran will become more belligerent and aggressive, and Assad will be less inclined to compromise. Iran has spent billions of dollars to defend Assad in Syria for the past four years, bankrolling Shiite militias fanned out across the country alongside Syrian government forces.

"Today is a black day," said Omar Mushaweh, a senior member of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood group, who is based in Saudi Arabia. He said that by lifting the sanctions from Iran, America and Europe have effectively formalized Iran as "a regional cop."

"Iran, even when it was encircled by the West, was occupying several countries. What should we expect now that sanctions have been lifted and Iran has been given a free hand?" he said.

In Lebanon, opponents of Hezbollah are similarly jittery, convinced the deal will further embolden the group, which already is a dominant force. Hezbollah officials have touted the deal as a victory for Iran and "the axis of resistance" which includes Assad.

IRAQ

Iraq's Shiite-dominated government, which is close to Iran, welcomed the implementation of the nuclear deal as a "catalyst" to help solve disputes in the region.

Government spokesman Saad al-Hadithi said he hoped issues could be resolved "peacefully and through dialogue."

Iraqi city of Ramadi, once home to 500,000, lies in ruins

RAMADI, Iraq (AP)—So complete was the destruction of Ramadi that a local reporter who had visited the city many times hardly recognized it.

"Honestly, this is the main street," Amaj Hamid, a member of Iraq's elite counterterrorism forces, told the TV crew as they entered from the southwest.

He swerved to avoid the aftermath of months of fighting: rubble, overturned cars and piles of twisted metal. Airstrikes and homemade bombs laid by the Islamic State group had shredded the poured-concrete walls and ceilings of the houses and shops along the road.

Ramadi, once home to about 500,000 people, now largely lies in ruins. A U.N. report released Saturday used satellite imagery to assess the devastation, concluding that more than 3,000 buildings had been damaged and nearly 1,500 destroyed in the city 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad.

All told, more than 60 percent of Anbar's provincial capital has been destroyed by constant air bombardment and the scorched-earth practices of IS fighters in retreat, according to local estimates.

Officials are already scrambling to raise money to rebuild, even as operations continue to retake neighborhoods in the north and east. Their concern is that the devastation could breed future conflicts, recreating the conditions that allowed the Islamic State group to first gain a foothold in the province in late 2013.

While the U.S.-led coalition acknowledges the importance of reconstruction efforts, the actual money pledged to help rebuild is just a fraction of the amount spent on the military effort against IS.

US Embassy says several Americans missing in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. Embassy confirmed Sunday that "several" Americans have gone missing in Iraq, after local media reported that three Americans had been kidnapped in the Iraqi capital.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Scott Bolz said, "We are working in full cooperation with Iraqi authorities to locate the missing Americans."

Bolz did not identify the missing Americans or say what they were doing in Iraq.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said that "due to privacy considerations" he had nothing further to add about the missing Americans. "The safety and security of Americans abroad is our highest priority," Kirby said.

The comments by U.S. officials came after the Arab news channel, al-Arabiya, citing its own sources, reported that three Americans had been kidnapped by militias in Baghdad.

Iraqi media reports said the Americans went missing in south Baghdad on their way to Baghdad International Airport. A Western security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media, said Sunday that he had been told that three Americans went missing 24 to 48 hours ago.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility. Kidnappings in Iraq have been carried out by the Islamic State group and Shiite militias as well as criminal gangs demanding ransom payments or disgruntled employees seeking to resolve workplace disputes.

The incident comes after a week that has seen a deterioration of security in and around the Iraqi capital after months of relative calm.

The Islamic State group claimed a number of attacks in Baghdad and neighboring Diyala province last week that killed more than 50 people, including a high profile attack on a mall in the Iraqi capital. The string of IS attacks on civilian targets within areas of Iraqi government control follow battlefield losses, most recently in western Iraq. Last month, Iraqi troops pushed IS fighters out of the center of Ramadi, the provincial capital of Anbar province in Iraq's Sunni heartland.

Focus

In Omaha, and much of US, debate over sex education rages on

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)—Rival factions yelling at one another amid angry pushing. Tirades about condoms, and claims of misinformation. A parent declaring that children are being force-fed course material "straight from the pits of hell."

Such has been the tenor of recent school board meetings in Omaha as board members contemplate the first update in three decades of the school district's sex education curriculum.

A public meeting in October ended in chaos after shouting and shoving broke out between supporters and opponents of the update who had packed by the hundreds into an auditorium. This month, as board members sat in stoic silence, activists from both sides vented their feelings during three hours of public comment—reflecting divisions that have bedeviled school boards nationwide, as well as state legislatures and even Congress.

Kathryn Russell, a grandmother who formerly worked for the Omaha school district, said the proposed curriculum "rapes children of their innocence." It was another critic in Omaha, Jesse Martinez, who used the "pits of hell" reference, calling elements of the course material "garbage. "

Supporters of the update—ranging from the president of the city council to students who spoke—exhorted the school board to equip students with reliable information that would help the Omaha region lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases that are above the national average.

"I have a right to this information," said Ryleigh Welsh, a sophomore at Omaha's Central High School. "Sexual health is more than just sex. It's about understanding and taking care of your body and being prepared for a healthy future."

In Omaha, as in many U.S. communities, some parents and conservative activists insist that any school-based sex education emphasize sexual abstinence as the wisest course. Yet as more young people turn to social media and online resources—including pornography- for sex-related information, there's pressure on schools from other quarters to offer accurate, candid information that can compete with and correct what's available beyond the classroom.

"The notion that sex education is limited to what happens in school is an antiquated one," said Bill Albert, chief program officer of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. It is one of several organizations that's developing online sex education to supplement school-based programs.

Quality online programming "is not buffeted by political fights over what teens can and should learn," Albert said. "It allows for real-time modifications and updates, it offers anonymity, and it meets teens where they are, which increasingly is in front of screens."

In Omaha, school board president Lou Ann Goding said one of the motivations for updating the sex-ed curriculum is to counter misinformation that students might encounter outside of school.

"There's so much social media and other sources that they can go to that are not always reliable," Goding said.

Several of the update supporters who spoke at the Jan. 4 public meeting echoed this concern. Among them were fourth graders Samantha Bourne and Hadley Forsen, who said they already were getting "nonfactual" information from their friends on sex-related topics.

"We need help to learn this curriculum at this age," said the girls, reading their statement in unison. "This will be way too embarrassing for us to ask our parents when we're older."

Sex education in America has a long and checkered history, winning the backing of the U.S. Public Health Service in 1940, gaining traction in the 1980s during the early years of the AIDS epidemic, but generating steady opposition from social conservatives.

Omaha Public Schools, which serves about 52,000 students in its district, has taught sex education since 1986 as part of a course called Human Growth and Development. The process that's been underway since early last year marks the first comprehensive review of the course.

Abstinence is encouraged in the curriculum, which also covers such topics as reproductive anatomy, pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted diseases.

As initially proposed, the updates would add discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in 7th and 8th grades, and discussion of abortion and emergency contraception in 10th-grade lessons on birth control.

Your Sexual Bill of Rights
In the United States:
• 1 in 5 women and 1 in 21 men will experience non-consensual sex in their lifetime.*
• About 78% of rapes are not reported**
• About 85% of victims knew the person who raped them*
California State Law***
• YES means YES. Silence means NO. If you are unsure, ASK.
• If a person says "Yes" to sex while drunk, the "Yes" DOES NOT count.
• If both people are drunk, the person who starts the sex is held responsible.

AP

In this Oct. 8, 2015, file photo, Justin Pace reads along with classmates during a ninth-grade Teen Talk High School class at Carlmont High School in Belmont, Calif. Sex education in some American high schools is evolving beyond pregnancy and disease prevention to include lessons aimed at curbing sexual assaults.

The school district conducted a telephone survey of about 1,500 parents last year, and reported that a sizable majority supported adding those topics to the curriculum. But the margins of support for the abortion and emergency contraception components were smaller than for other topics, and school officials now plan to omit them.

Over the course of 2015, some churches and other groups began to circulate criticisms and warnings about the district's plans. Spearheading the opposition is a conservative Christian group, Nebraskans for Founders' Values, which has held briefings at local churches and encouraged skeptical citizens—whether public school parents or not—to attend school board meetings to vent their displeasure.

Comprehensive sex education "is pornography under the guise of education," the group contends. "The values that it promotes are ones that most parents would never agree with."

Many of the opponents' allegations have been categorically denied by the school district, including claims that the new curriculum was designed by Planned Parenthood, would authorize school staff to take students to get abortions, and would provide them with birth control.

Goding, the board president, said countering inaccurate criticisms has been a challenge.

"Once the misinformation has been disseminated, it's hard to gather it back up," she said.

Board members stress that none of the sex-ed courses will be mandatory—parents must opt their children into the classes offered in 4th, 5th and 6th grade, and can keep them out of the classes in middle school and high school. Topics for 4th graders include puberty and how to stay safe from sexual abuse; by middle school students are learning about methods of contraception.

The board plans to vote on new standards for the sex-ed program on Jan. 20, then work on details of a new curriculum in time for any changes to be implemented next fall. Some opponents have urged the board to hold off on implementation until parents can review the final version of the proposed curriculum.

Sex education is taught in varied forms and under different rules across the 50 states.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 22 states and the District of Columbia require public schools to teach sex education. In other states, including Nebraska, it's generally up to individual school districts to decide what form of sex education, if any, is offered. In 35 states, parents are allowed to keep their children out of sex-ed classes.

In some states, there have been recent steps to ensure that the sex-ed curriculum includes positive instruction about different sexual orientations and gender identities, and to address sexual harassment and violence.

There's no detailed nationwide breakdown of how the 13,500 school districts in the U.S. handle sex education, although the Centers for Disease Control compiles partial data. Its latest report, with data from 2014, suggests that programs in a substantial majority of school districts stress the benefits of sexual abstinence, while a smaller portion offer instruction in high school about usage of specific contraceptive methods, including condoms and emergency contraception.

In most of the U.S., fewer than half of high schools and only a fifth of middle schools teach all 16 topics recommended by the CDC as essential components of sex education.

"Lack of effective sex education can have very real, very serious health consequences," said Dr. Stephanie Zaza, director of the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health. "Young people who have multiple sex partners, don't use condoms, and use drugs or alcohol before sex are at higher risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections."

Leslie Kantor, vice president of education for Planned Parenthood, said the statewide policies are not a good barometer for what's happening school by school. Whether or not there was a statewide mandate, an individual district might do a good job or bad job with its course, she said.

Dr. John Santelli, an adolescent medicine specialist at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, says there has been a slight decline in the teaching of comprehensive sex education, including instruction on condom use. He finds that worrisome, citing research that casts doubt on the effectiveness of abstinence-only programs.

"There's been a decline in support for sex education at the political level," Santelli said. "People are getting fed up—they'd rather avoid the whole issue."

While the federal government has no direct role in dictating sex-education curriculum, it has influence in the form of federal funding for various programs. From 1981, the start of Ronald Reagan's administration, through 2009, such funds went predominantly to abstinence-only programs; since 2010, under President Barack Obama, abstinence funding has been reduced and larger sums appropriated for comprehensive sex-ed programs.

Rival advocacy groups lobbied hard in Congress last year to get a favorable outcome for their approach. The end result—a compromise between Democrats and Republicans—maintained annual spending at about $100 million for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, which incorporates comprehensive sex education, and doubled spending from $5 million to $10 million to abstinence-oriented programs

Valerie Huber of Ascend—formerly the National Abstinence Education Association—would like to see Congress move toward equal funding earmarked for comprehensive and abstinence approaches.

In the meantime, Ascend and its allies are working to scrap the term "abstinence-only," which they felt was a detriment. They now describe their approach as "sexual risk avoidance" and contrast it with what they call a "sexual risk reduction" (SRR) approach in comprehensive sex-ed programs.

"There's room for both, but we have to be clear they are different," Huber said. "Our approach sends a cultural message that it's better if teens don't have sex; the SRR message is normalizing teen sex if the risks can be mitigated."

According to the CDC's latest figures, from 2013, 44 percent of female teens and 47 percent of male teens between 15 and 19 have had sexual intercourse—significantly lower than 25 years earlier, but up slightly from 2011.

Overdrive

Honda Pilot finally finds some style for 2016

By TERRY BOX
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

MCT
The 2016 Honda Pilot Elite.

Pug-nosed Honda Pilots plod through the sunny streets of my suburb wearing pretty grim expressions.

Square as a church comptroller, they look as if they've seen too many wind-blown soccer-field parking lots and suffered too many jolts and blows at the mall.

As one of Honda's primary kid-hauling devices, the blocky, cheerless Pilot has been on the Cheetos-and-animal-crackers circuit for more than a decade.

It shows, too, from the Pilot's tired, blunt grille to its starkly upright body, seemingly shaped in a wood shop in the '90s.

While Land Rovers and Escalades elegantly shoulder their way through traffic to deliver shiny, smiling people to the symphony, utilitarian Pilots tote hairy family dogs and muddy 6-year-olds.

I think they just need a good, rowdy night out _ like the rest of us.

And finally, I guess, Honda saw the sag in the Pilot.

The all-new 2016 model I had recently arrived at The Daily Planet dressed in curves and chrome, ready to prowl Uptown with a fresh smile.

Gone from my dark metallic-green Pilot were all the 90-degree angles that made the old one about as exciting as a Saturday night out at Subway.

Bigger, lighter and much better-looking, the Pilot still wore Honda's familiar three-bar grille, but with some new bends in it and pressed tightly against subtle headlamps. The relatively short hood actually curved some in its reach for the windshield, sporting four sharp character lines.

The Pilot shares a basic platform with Honda's Odyssey minivan, and both use bones plucked from the Accord for their foundations.

The Pilot stands nearly 70 inches tall, with fairly flat sides that could quickly turn thick.

Fortunately, Honda gave the new Pilot a whimsical character line that cut through the handles of both big doors before curving up jauntily and fading into the back fender.

Even more surprising were the 20-inch alloy wheels _ factory dubs on a Honda? _ shod with beefy 245/50 tires. Did the Pilot spend the summer in Malibu?

I halfway expected to find Weezer's alt-surf music ringing through its interior and maybe a little sand in back.

Of course, the fine 3.5-liter V-6 beneath the hood has long been the best part of the trucklet _ a torquey, free-breathing engine that often seems more powerful than Honda claims. That hasn't changed much in the new Pilot, which gets a version of the 3.5 rated at 280 horsepower.

As always, the engine felt rich, whirring with a silky mix of balance and precision that few sixes can match.

It pushed the big Pilot away from stops with convincing surge and pulled pretty hard to the midrange, its sophisticated nine-speed automatic generally finding and holding the right gear.

But once I got past about 4,000 rpm in the all-wheel-drive Pilot, the sweet six seemed to flatten out. Although the new Pilot is about 200 pounds lighter than its predecessor, which should give it stronger legs, it wasn't all that enthusiastic about higher-rpm runs.

Not that most Pilot owners would care. They are more interested in cubic feet of storage space than cubic inches in the engine.

And when I looked up the new Pilot's 0-to-60 time, I got another surprise. How about a very solid 6.2 seconds in a crossover weighing about 4,200 pounds?

Maybe my sense of speed got compressed by that Hellcat Challenger I had last winter _ along with several spinal discs, one retina and what was left of my caution.

In addition, the Pilot should return 19 miles per gallon in town and 26 mpg on the highway, a 1 mpg improvement in both over last year.

LOOKING INWARD

At $47,300, the Pilot adds "pricey" to its list of features, as well. But the Elite model I had was a top-of-the-line vehicle, and lesser models are available in base form for $34,330.

At least you could see some of the extra expenditure in the Elite's nicely stitched tan and black interior.

The flat-shaped dashboard in mine, for instance, was formed of decent-quality black plastic and included an interesting squared-off hood over the instrument panel. Rather than a conventional center stack, the Elite had an 8-inch display screen in the middle of the dash, flanked by air-conditioning vents and trimmed in silver.

Likewise, the vehicle's climate controls spread out horizontally beneath the screen, featuring easy-to-use buttons and switches.

Once again, though, Honda chose _ unwisely, I think _ to use awful, distracting touch pads on the display screen to control the audio system's volume and channel selection.

C'mon, Honda. Do you just not like us or do you own a bunch of body shops somewhere?

SOFT SEATS

I almost forgave them after I settled into the Elite's soft tan leather seats with nice bolsters and support.

The Elite's broad console was coated in piano black and sported tan sides. It also provided a home for Honda's unusual transmission shifter _ buttons on the console, Acura-style, for "P," "R," "N,""D" and "S" for sport mode.

Mine also had three rows of seating and, shockingly, the third row actually had acceptable headroom, though the legroom was limited.

Second-row legroom and headroom seemed really good. But I have to ask: Do I look as if I've shrunk some with age? Could that be it? Still, if you have to stuff a couple of real adults in the third-row seats, the second-row models are buckets and can be pulled forward some.

I admit I have not always been a fan of Honda's vehicles. The Civic from two generations past, the Accord of five years ago and every Ridgeline looked and felt incomplete to me.

But just about every Honda vehicle over the last 18 months has arrived with better styling, performance, utility and economy, including the new Pilot.

Pay attention, Toyota and Nissan. Honda just might have found its way back.

AT A GLANCE:
2016 Honda Pilot AWD Elite

- Type of vehicle: Six- or seven-passenger, all-wheel-drive crossover
- Price as tested: $47,300
- Fuel economy: 19 miles per gallon city, 26 highway
- Weight: About 4,200 pounds
- Engine: 3.5-liter direct-injected V-6 with 280 horsepower and 262 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: Nine-speed automatic
- Performance: 0 to 60 mph in an estimated 6.2 seconds
- SOURCES: American Honda Motor Co.; Car and Driver

MOTORING Q&A

What happened to my Jeep's smooth ride?

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I have a problem with my 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee, which has 154,000 miles on it. While driving at speeds greater than 45 mph I notice a problem in ride smoothness.

My tires are fairly new, properly inflated and balanced, and their alignment is proper. I replaced all four shocks a couple of months ago. There are no unusual wear patterns on the tires.

Initially, the problem started when I took my foot off the gas at freeway speeds. During the subsequent abrupt deceleration, the vehicle seemed to float and shimmy. When I resumed acceleration, the vehicle shimmied and floated again.

I understand that any roughness on the highway surface, crosswinds or following semitrailers cause these symptoms.

There seems to be a bit of play in the steering, but there's no pull on the steering wheel. I have been to a Jeep dealership and a reputable private service center. Both can replicate the problem but neither can find anything abnormal. Please help.

A: With 11 years and more than 150,000 miles on the vehicle, two likely possibilities exist: crash damage or worn parts. Even with new shocks, rubber bushings in control arms, stabilizers and track bars, ball joints, tie-rod ends, steering gear, and the like may be worn enough to allow the vibration or shimmy to go undampened.

Residual crash damage, perhaps unknown or not identified previously—like a bent steering sector shaft or pitman arm—can allow excess movement in the steering that creates a shimmy or vibration. Also, don't overlook the tires—a belt shift or separation can cause this type of behavior.

Speaking of steering, the steering linkage on your Jeep features a shock absorber-like steering dampener to help control steering oscillations. At this age and mileage, this may be the primary suspect.

Q: We have had endless tire issues for years with our 2006 Pontiac Grand Prix. The tire was flat yet again tonight and when we brought it to a tire dealer to be repaired, both of the mechanics said, "You don't want to do that," when we suggested radial inner tubes. However, we did not get a clear explanation for their disapproval. How do radial inner tubes solve tire-pressure issues?

A: By holding air. As I said in my column, I rate the installation of radial inner tubes as a last resort to tire bead-to-rim air leaks. If cleaning, sanding, polishing, painting and/or sealing the bead area of the rim does not stop the air leaks, a radial tire inner tube might be the only answer short of replacing the wheel. It's very important to differentiate between a standard inner tube and radial tire inner tube. Radial inner tubes are not available for all sizes of wheels or tires. The potential issue with installing radial inner tubes on a tubeless tire is pinching and chafing of the inner tube, eventually causing the tube to fail and the tire to go flat. A correct-sized radial inner tube is less likely to suffer this issue.

Q: Regarding cellphone use while driving, I am told there are several apps available that a phone user can download to disable his phone while driving should the individual choose to do so. Check it out.

A: Every cellphone has a built in "app" to prevent use while driving. It's the "off" button. So does the driver—just don't use the cellphone while driving.

Regardless of the mechanism for disabling or preventing cellphone use while driving, if it is operated or activated by the driver it is doomed to failure. Motorists who are welded to their phones while driving simply will not use any of these systems. Just like seatbelt use—many motorists choose to not buckle up for whatever unfathomable and irrational reasons.

Unless it's an automatic system allowing no human influence, it can't work. And what are the chances of a system like this when carmakers and buyers are focusing on the telecommunication capabilities of the vehicles they are purchasing?

Life & Style

‘Spotlight,’ DiCaprio, Larson win at Critics’ Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The investigative journalism drama “Spotlight” won the top prize at the Critics’ Choice Awards on Sunday, while awards favorites Brie Larson and Leonardo DiCaprio won the top acting prizes for “Room” and “The Revenant.”

Both actors won Golden Globe Awards and are considered front-runners for the Academy Awards, too.

“Mad Max: Fury Road” was the most nominated film of the evening with 13 nominations from the Broadcast Film Critics’ Association. While it lost out for the top prize, it did win a number of awards, including Best Director for George Miller, best action movie, and best action movie actor and actress for Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron.

The financial crisis dramedy “The Big Short,” meanwhile, won for best comedy and best comedic actor for star Christian Bale, who kissed both his wife and director Adam McKay on his way up to the stage to accept his award.

Both were up for best picture Oscar heavyweights like “Spotlight,” ‘’The Revenant” and “The Martian,” as well as “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” which was added after initial nominees were announced and went home empty handed on Sunday.

AP
Leonardo DiCaprio is seen on screen accepting the award for best actor for “The Revenant” at the 21st annual Critics’ Choice Awards at the Barker Hangar on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016, in Santa Monica, Calif.

“Star Wars” director J.J. Abrams was in attendance to present the Genius Award to Industrial Light & Magic, which Chief Creative Officer John Knoll accepted.

But it was “Spotlight’s” night in the end. The film also picked up Best Acting Ensemble, winning out over films like “Straight Outta Compton” and “The Hateful Eight.”

It was the only award that N.W.A biopic “Straight Outta Compton” was up for at the show, but the film was on everyone’s minds on the blue carpet and in the early moments of the evening after it received only one Academy Award nomination for screenwriting just days earlier.

“They got snubbed, but there are lots of other great films that got snubbed as well,” said Neil Brown Jr. before the show began. Brown Jr. played DJ Yella in the film which has picked up its share Guild nominations this season.

“Just everybody talking about it is enough of an Oscar for us,” he added.

The lack of diversity this awards season came into focus on Thursday when there were once again no actors of color among the Academy Awards nominees. On Saturday, Jada Pinkett Smith even posited on Twitter that perhaps people of color should refrain from participating in the Oscars altogether.

“We are rarely recognized for our artistic accomplishments,” Smith wrote.

“Black-ish” star Anthony Anderson joked early on about the lack of diversity at the Oscars.

“A lot of actors who win the Critics’ Choice go on to win the Academy Award,” said Anderson when presenting an early award with co-star Tracee Ellis Ross. “For you, Tracy, that means only half of you gets to go to the awards.”

List of Winners for the Critics’ Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—List of winners of the 21st annual Critics’ Choice Awards, announced Sunday in Santa Monica, California.

MOTION PICTURE WINNERS:

Best Picture: “Spotlight.”
Best Actor: Leonardo DiCaprio, “The Revenant.”
Best Actress: Brie Larson, “Room.”
Best Supporting Actor: Sylvester Stallone, “Creed.”
Best Supporting Actress: Alicia Vikander, “The Danish Girl.”
Best Young Actor/Actress: Jacob Tremblay, “Room.”
Best Acting Ensemble: “Spotlight.”
Best Director: George Miller, “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Original Screenplay: Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy, “Spotlight.”
Best Adapted Screenplay: Charles Randolph and Adam McKay, “The Big Short.”
Best Cinematography: Emmanuel Lubezki, “The Revenant.”
Best Production Design: Colin Gibson, “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Editing: Margaret Sixel, “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Costume Design: Jenny Bevan, “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Hair & Makeup: “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Visual Effects: “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Animated Feature: “Inside Out.”
Best Action Movie: “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Actor in an Action Movie: Tom Hardy, “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Actress in an Action Movie: Charlize Theron, “Mad Max: Fury Road.”
Best Comedy: “The Big Short.”
Best Actor in a Comedy: Christian Bale, “The Big Short.”
Best Actress in a Comedy: Amy Schumer, “Trainwreck.”
Best Sci-Fi/Horror Movie: “Ex Machina.”
Best Foreign Language Film: “Son of Saul.”
Best Documentary Feature: “Amy.”
Best Song: Wiz Khalifa for “See You Again” from “Furious 7.”
Best Score: Ennio Morricone, “The Hateful Eight.”

TELEVISION:

Best Actor in a Comedy Series: Jeffrey Tambor, “Transparent.”
Best Actor in a Drama Series: Rami Malek, “Mr. Robot.”
Best Actor in a Movie Made for Television: Idris Elba, “Luther.”
Best Actress in a Comedy Series: Rachel Bloom, “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend.”
Best Actress in a Drama Series: Carrie Coon, “The Leftovers.”
Best Actress in a Movie Made for Television or Limited Series: Kirsten Dunst, “Fargo.”
Best Comedy Series: “Master of None.”
Best Drama Series: “Mr. Robot.”
Best Guest Actor/Actress in a Comedy Series: Timothy Olyphant, “The Grinder.”
Best Guest Actor/Actress in a Drama Series: Margo Martindale, “The Good Wife.”
Best Movie Made for Television or Limited Series: “Fargo.”
Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series: Andre Braugher, “Brooklyn Nine-Nine.”
Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series: Christian Slater, “Mr. Robot.”
Best Supporting Actor in a Movie Made for Television or Limited Series: Jesse Plemons, “Fargo.”
Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series: Mayim Bialik, “The Big Bang Theory.”
Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series: Constance Zimmer, “UnREAL.”
Best Supporting Actress in a Movie Made for Television or Limited Series: Jean Smart, “Fargo.”
Best Animation Series: “BoJack Horseman.”
Best Reality Show: “The Voice.”
Best Reality Show Host: James Lipton, “Inside the Actors Studio.”
Best Structured Reality Show: “Shark Tank.”
Best Talk Show: “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.”
Best Unstructured Reality Show: “Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown.”
MVP Award: Amy Schumer.
Genius Award: Industrial Light & Magic.

‘Grizzly Adams’ star Dan Haggerty dies at 74

NEW YORK (AP)—Dan Haggerty, the rugged, bearded actor who starred in the film and TV series “The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams” about a mountain man and animal trainer, has died.

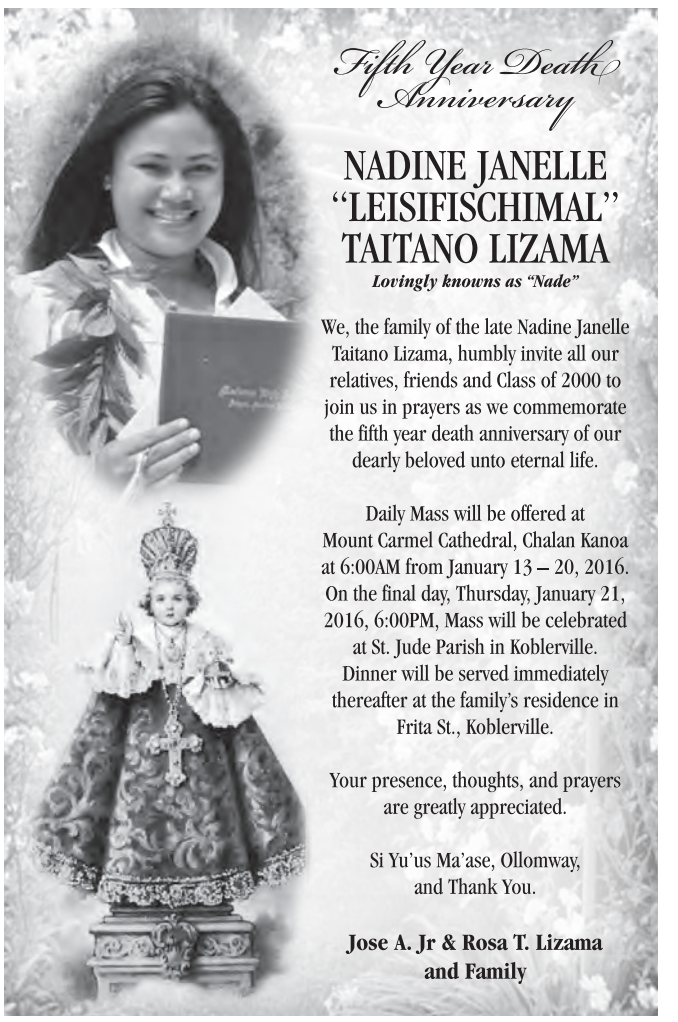
Haggerty died Friday at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California, according to his manager, Terry Bomar. Haggerty was 74 and had been battling cancer of the spine, Bomar told The Associated Press.

Haggerty, born in Pound, Wisconsin, had minor roles in such films as “Easy Rider” and the Elvis Presley musical “Girl Happy” before playing the title role in the 1974 movie about Grizzly Adams.

A short-lived TV show of the same name debuted in 1977. His other TV credits include “Charlie’s Angels” and “The Love Boat.”

Haggerty had a lifelong affinity for wild animals and worked as a trainer for Walt Disney Studios.

AP
In this July 10, 2010 file photo, actor Dan Haggerty arrives at the premiere of the musical feature film “Standing Ovation” in Universal City, Calif.


Fifth Year Death Anniversary
NADINE JANELLE
“LEISIFISCHIMAL”
TAITANO LIZAMA
Lovingly knowns as “Nade”
We, the family of the late Nadine Janelle Taitano Lizama, humbly invite all our relatives, friends and Class of 2000 to join us in prayers as we commemorate the fifth year death anniversary of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.
Daily Mass will be offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa at 6:00AM from January 13 – 20, 2016. On the final day, Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:00PM, Mass will be celebrated at St. Jude Parish in Koblerville. Dinner will be served immediately thereafter at the family’s residence in Frita St., Koblerville.
Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Ollomway, and Thank You.
Jose A. Jr & Rosa T. Lizama and Family

Producer says 'never' to 'Friends' reunion movie

AP
This photo provided by Netflix shows Jane Fonda, left, and Lily Tomlin in the Netflix Original Series "Grace and Frankie."

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—A roundup of news Sunday from the Television Critics Association winter meeting, at which TV networks and streaming services are presenting details on upcoming programs.

"NINE TO FIVE" MAYBE, 'FRIENDS' NEVER

Dolly Parton may reunite someday with her "Nine to Five" movie co-stars Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin on the pair's Netflix series "Grace & Frankie," but not yet.

Executive producer Marta Kauffman said it's too early in the life of the Netflix drama, which begins its second season in May.

"The minute you bring Dolly Parton—who I love, by the way—it's 'Nine to Five'" and viewers will be taken out of the world of "Grace & Frankie," Kauffman said.

She took the opportunity to make her feelings known about a reunion for another show she produced.

"I will say there will never be a 'Friends' reunion movie," she said.

The possibility of the "Friends" stars reuniting in some fashion was raised after NBC said it was gathering them for a Feb. 21 tribute to veteran director Jim Burrows, who counts the hit sitcom and many others among his credits.

But it turned out the network is well shy of that goal, with NBC executives saying last week that the majority of "Friends" stars Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer will be there and "in one form or another."

WORD OF WISDOM

Lily Tomlin, 76, asked to share the secret of aging with grace and gusto, answered succinctly.

"Denial," said Tomlin, who co-stars with Jane Fonda in Netflix's "Grace & Frankie."

HARD AT WORK

There's been hand-wringing among television executives about whether there are too many television shows for consumers to keep track of. That's not the case in the trenches.

Comedy producer Judd Apatow, who has a new series "Love" being released on Netflix next month, said a lot of his friends who were out of work five or six years ago now have jobs. Not only that, creators have more of an upper hand, he said.

He called it a "miracle" that there's a profit motive to create innovative television, and that it has raised the game of creative minds.

SEXY JESSICA

There's really not much that's sexy about filming sex scenes on "Marvel's Jessica Jones," says star Krysten Ritter. Everything is tightly choreographed.

That said, "if you're going to have to do scenes like that, it's not terrible to do that with Mike," she said of co-star Mike Colter, who plays Luke Cage in the Netflix drama, which just got picked up for a second season.

Colter said he's comfortable filming the scenes with Ritter, less so with the "20 or 30 people around on set who wouldn't normally be on set."

OLDER VIEWERS

Netflix still won't release any specific details about who is using the streaming service. But Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer, said there shouldn't be an assumption that older viewers are going to be intimidated by the new way of experiencing television.

"A couple of years ago people said that their parents wouldn't use email," Sarandos said. "Now they're on Facebook, much to their embarrassment sometimes."

'Making a Murderer' filmmakers say they expected backlash

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The filmmakers behind Netflix's "Making a Murderer" documentary say they expected a backlash that would lead people in the media to demonize Steven Avery, the Wisconsin man whose prosecution in the 2005 death of a woman formed the centerpiece of the 10-part series issued last month.

Laura Ricciardi and Moira Demos, at a news conference on Sunday, sought to deflect discussion on the question of Avery's guilt or innocence and instead pointed to questions raised about the criminal justice system in their film.

AP
In this March 13, 2007 file photo, Steven Avery listens to testimony in the courtroom at the Calumet County Courthouse in Chilton, Wis.

"Making a Murderer" has followed the NPR podcast "Serial" and HBO's "The Jinx" as a compellingly told true crime epic, leading many people who have seen it to take up the cause of Avery, who served 18 years in prison following a wrongful conviction of rape and two years after his release was charged in the death of photographer Teresa Halbach. The documentary questions whether Avery was treated fairly.

Yet prosecutors—who the filmmakers say declined their request to participate in "Making a Murderer"—have claimed the film omits physical evidence against Avery. A former fiancee of Avery's, Jodi Stachowski, told HLN this week that Avery was "a monster" who had threatened to kill her.

"The media are demonizing this man in order to prove his guilt," Ricciardi said.

They said, however, that they expected a strong reaction. Although they said they were filmmakers, not prosecutors, they said they tried their best to reflect all of the facts in the case.

They ducked questions Sunday on their belief about Avery's guilt or innocence, even though they told Stephen Colbert on CBS' "Late Show" earlier this month that they believed he was not guilty. Ricciardi said she would not want to be treated by the criminal justice system the way Avery was.

"We did not consider this advocacy journalism in the least," Demos said. "We are not taking sides. We don't have a stake in his character, in his innocence or guilt. That was not the question that we were raising."

She said that "if you watch the series, I think it's clear that the American criminal justice system has some serious problems and that it is urgent that we address them."

Avery has recently filed an appeal of his conviction, claiming authorities used an improper warrant and that a juror was out to get him.

The filmmakers said they understood that Avery's request to watch "Making a Murderer" had been declined. They said they have had conversations with Avery since the documentary's release that they have taped, but have not returned to Wisconsin for more filming.

Netflix chief says 2016 will bring emphasis on family shows

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Netflix says it will make a special effort to produce programming for children and families, with the streaming service offering 20 new programs in the category this year led by the Feb. 26 premiere of the "Fuller House" remake.

Ted Sarandos, Netflix chief content officer, said Sunday that there's not enough of this programming on traditional TV right now. The emphasis also coincides with Netflix's broadening subscriber base—it's more than 19-year-old boys clicking onto the service now.

The streaming service is in only its fourth season of making original content with deep pockets that have made traditional TV networks envious. Sarandos, who said Netflix will spend $5 billion on content this year, aggressively fought back against recent criticism from rivals.

The remake of the popular "Full House" is highly anticipated. The network on Friday also made available new episodes of the teen-focused series "Degrassi." Jim Henson's company is making "Word Party," a show for preschoolers, and "Lost & Found Music Studios," premiering in April, is about striving teenage musicians. Also in April, the animated "Kong: King of the Apes" will update the King Kong series.

"The Get Down," a series starting this summer about the formative days of rap music, could appeal to both youngsters and their parents.

Netflix said it has 43 million subscribers in the United States, or more than a third of households with television, and 70 million worldwide. It has steadfastly refused to detail how many people watch their original programs, leading a rival to try and pull back the curtain this week.

NBC researchers said they used audio measurements from Symphony Advanced Media to estimate viewership for some Netflix programs. For instance, NBC said the comedy "Master of None" was seen 3.9 million times by viewers ages 18-to-49 over a 35-day period, while "Marvel's Jessica Jones" had 4.8 million youthful viewers during the same stretch of time. NBC argued this meant Netflix wasn't a serious threat to its business.

Sarandos said NBC released "remarkably inaccurate data that does not reflect any reality that we track," and said Netflix doesn't measure viewership in the 18-to-49-year-old demographic. He said NBC probably took the time to talk about Netflix "because it's more fun than talking about NBC's ratings."

He did not, however, release any specific data to dispute what NBC said.

One thing not in Netflix's immediate future: live programming, including news or sports. While Netflix has the technical ability to deliver live programming, it would muddle the company's chief marketing message that viewers can watch whatever they want whenever they want.

Sarandos also needled John Landgraf, CEO of the FX Networks, who complained Saturday of Netflix's big programming budget and has suggested that there are too many television shows being made for consumers to get a grip on.

"Is there too much TV?" Sarandos asked. "We don't think there's too much TV, and if there is too much TV, somebody else has to slow down."

ESPN's Chris Mortensen taking break to treat throat cancer

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP)—ESPN's Chris Mortensen has throat cancer and will be off the air for treatment.

Mortensen

The senior NFL analyst said in a statement Friday that was he diagnosed with advanced throat cancer last week. He said more tests were planned to determine a treatment plan, which would begin in "the very immediate future."

The 64-year-old Mortensen said he was temporarily stepping away from his NFL coverage duties "to fight the good fight that is projected to affect almost 1 .7 million Americans with new cases in 2016."

Mortensen has been with ESPN since 1991.

ESPN President John Skipper said in a statement that Mortensen has "the complete support of his entire ESPN family" and that the network looks "forward to his return whenever he chooses."

Buress calls impact of his Cosby joke 'weird,' unexpected

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Hannibal Buress calls it a weird surprise that his Bill Cosby "rapist" joke precipitated the star's fall from grace.

"I was doing a joke in my show and that shouldn't influence public opinion. I don't know if it should go that far," Buress said Sunday. "It's weird to me that a joke did that."

Buress said he didn't perform the joke with the idea it would have repercussions for Cosby. He stopped short of expressing regret.

Speaking earlier to a TV critics' group, Buress said he's moved beyond Cosby as a punchline and doesn't see his career as defined by it.

"I've been working for a while and I continue to work," Buress said, citing his voice-over performances for films including the upcoming "The Angry Birds Movie" and ongoing stand-up appearances. A comedy special for Netflix will be released Feb. 5.

"That's just one joke that ... people took and really ran with it," he said.

In October 2014, Buress called Cosby a rapist during a Philadelphia stand-up performance. It was captured on video and posted online, gaining wide exposure and renewing scrutiny of decades-old allegations of sexual assault lodged by a number of women.

The chorus of accusers grew, eclipsing Cosby's public image as a charming, family friendly comedian and an African-American groundbreaker with his role in the 1960s in "I Spy" and his 1984-92 NBC TV sitcom "The Cosby Show."

Cosby had previously come under fire from some in the African-American community for critical remarks about the conduct of poor blacks.

Buress declined Sunday to discuss what prompted making Cosby a comedic target.

Cosby repeatedly has denied the sexual-misconduct claims, with his attorneys noting he had never been charged. That changed on Dec. 31, when he was arrested on felony assault charges in suburban Philadelphia stemming from a 2004 encounter with a former Temple University employee.

AP

In this March 14, 2015 file photo, Hannibal Buress speaks at the Comedy Central Roast of Justin Bieber at Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, Calif

The decision represented an about-face by the district attorney's office, which under a previous leader declined to charge Cosby in 2005 when Andrea Constand first told police that the comic put his hands down her pants.

Responding last month to the charges, Cosby's attorney Monique Pressley accused the new prosecutor of "playing political football" with Cosby's life.

Buress, who appeared on the panel with John Mulaney and Patton Oswalt, drew support from his fellow comedians.

"Many, many people knew him as an excellent standup before that," Mulaney said.

Added Oswalt: "Hannibal was doing fine without that (the Cosby controversy). He'd be sitting here now if that had not happened. ... That's just incidental to where he was going anyway."

Fans of Divine want to build monument honoring late actor

BALTIMORE (AP)—Fans of Divine want to build a monument in Baltimore honoring the late actor, drag queen, singer and counterculture figure.

Divine

The Baltimore Sun (http://bsun.md/1JStMAS) reports the proposed marble and concrete monument would consist of an arch perched on top of two marble steps. A photo of Divine would be placed under the arch.

The newspaper reported that supporters of the monument would like it to be built near the Tyson Street site where Divine filmed a notorious scene from the 1972 cult classic, "Pink Flamingos."

Howard Libit, a spokesman for Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, says the mayor looks forward to seeing more details on the proposal.

The monument must first be approved by Baltimore's Public Art Commission. Monument supporters are scheduled to appear before the commission.

Actor, California lawmaker fight bogus memorabilia

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Luke Skywalker actor Mark Hamill has seen it time and time again: "Star Wars" fans with movie posters and other memorabilia that they believe were signed by him.

The autograph often turns out to be bogus.

Weary of seeing fans victimized by unscrupulous dealers, Hamill has teamed up with California Assemblywoman Ling Ling Chang to extend protections that apply to sports memorabilia to all signed collectibles sold by dealers in the state.

Hamill

"The public is being swindled on a daily basis and the numbers are huge. I just can't keep quiet when I see people I love being hurt," Hamill told the Los Angeles Times on Saturday (http://lat.ms/1ZseTqL).

Under a pending bill, the Diamond Bar Republican would require certificates of authenticity for signed memorabilia sold by dealers, and entitle duped consumers to as much as 10 times the cost of a forged item in civil court.

State law already offers those remedies for signed sports memorabilia.

Hamill said it makes no sense that film fans don't get the same protections as sports fans from faked autographs.

In 1999, the FBI's San Diego office led a massive investigation of forgery rings, which culminated in the arrest of a half-dozen forgers and the seizure of merchandise valued at millions of dollars, including a baseball supposedly signed by Mother Teresa and the autographs of George Washington, Marilyn Monroe and John F. Kennedy.

'High School Musical' stars reunite for 10th anniversary

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The stars of "High School Musical" are reuniting for a 10th-anniversary tribute to the TV movie.

Actors Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale, Lucas Grabeel, Corbin Bleu and Monique Coleman share memories of the movie when it airs again at 8 p.m. EST Wednesday on the Disney Channel.

Zac Efron, who played Troy opposite Hudgens' Gabriella, couldn't attend the pre-taped group reunion because it conflicted with promotion of his movie "Dirty Grandpa," a channel spokeswoman said. Efron recorded separate remarks that will be included in the broadcast.

The "High School Musical" reprise comes during a wave of TV musical popularity. NBC has aired a series of live musicals and is aiming to put "Hairspray" on in December, while Fox is showing a live production of "Grease" on Jan. 31 and ABC has plans for a "Dirty Dancing" TV movie.

Student who wants to study abroad needs time to mature

DEAR ABBY: Our granddaughter, "Kim," is a senior in high school. She wants to study in Europe next year to improve her skills in a second language. Neither she nor her parents can afford the $20,000 or more this will cost. She is also "boy crazy." Another worry is the threat of terrorism and her safety.

Kim's grandmother and I see more negatives than positives in this possibility. Please advise us whether we should voice our opinion and what your opinion is.

HOLDING BACK FOR NOW

DEAR HOLDING: If you had described your granddaughter as emotionally mature and responsible, I would give it my blessing. However, because you didn't, in my opinion she should continue her schooling closer to home and pursue her interest in language arts when she's further along in her education and less boy crazy.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend has no issue with nudity. She worked herself through her master's degree in finance as an exotic dancer. She has a phenomenal figure, eats healthy and works out often.

Last year we bought a home in a small residential community, complete with a pool. We installed a fence and spent a lot of money on landscaping to give us privacy from our neighbors.

We live in Florida and spend a lot of time in our pool, especially on weekends. My girlfriend doesn't like to wear a swimsuit, and I have no issues with it.

At a neighborhood event recently, one of our neighbors politely asked her if she wouldn't mind covering up when in the pool. She said her kids, and I'm sure her hubby, can see into our yard from their second story. My girlfriend apologized for their inconvenience, but told them she wouldn't be changing her habits in her home to stop another family from gawking.

I see both sides of this. I agree she shouldn't feel compelled to wear a suit to swim in our own pool (or lounge by it). But I can also see the neighbor's side. The preteen boys and husband can get an eyeful just about every weekend, and I don't think a few tan lines are worth a feud with the neighbors. Any suggestions for my dilemma?

SWIMSUIT ETIQUETTE

DEAR S.E.: I, too, can see both sides of this. However, you and your girlfriend have done as much as you can to protect her privacy. You can't be responsible for your neighbor's husband's and children's voyeurism. I don't think your girlfriend should feel compelled to change her lifestyle because they act like Peeping Toms.

I do think it would be healthier for all concerned if your neighbor had a talk with her "boys" regarding their family's standards when it comes to naturism and respecting the privacy of others.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

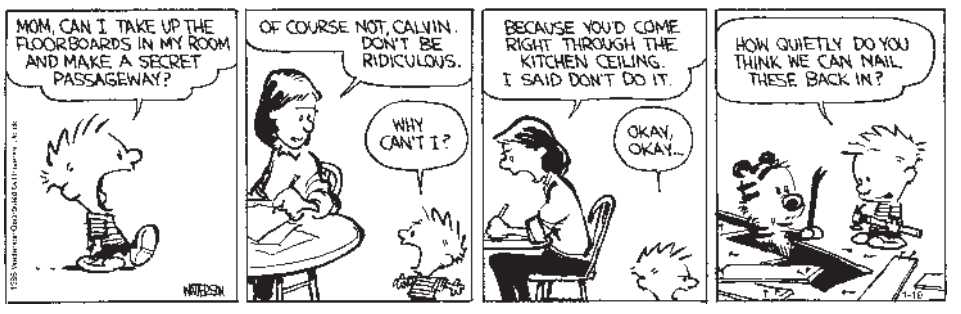
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

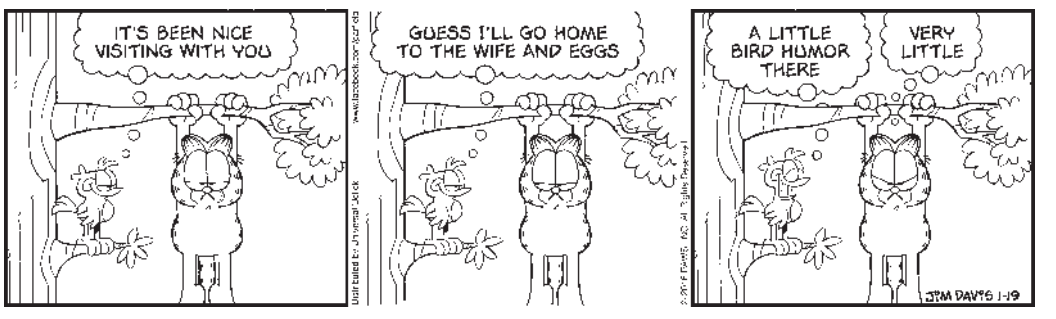
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM, CAN I TAKE UP THE FLOORBOARDS IN MY ROOM AND MAKE A SECRET PASSAGEWAY?
OF COURSE NOT, CALVIN. DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
WHY CAN'T I?
BECAUSE YOU'D COME RIGHT THROUGH THE KITCHEN CEILING. I SAID DON'T DO IT.
OKAY, OKAY...
HOW QUIETLY DO YOU THINK WE CAN NAIL THESE BACK IN?
WATTERSON

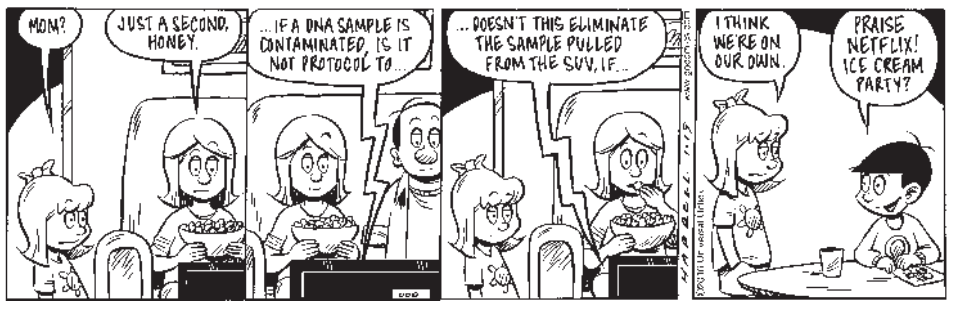
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MOM?
JUST A SECOND, HONEY.
...IF A DNA SAMPLE IS CONTAMINATED, IS IT NOT PROTOCOL TO...
...DOESN'T THIS ELIMINATE THE SAMPLE PULLED FROM THE SUV, IF...
I THINK WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
PRAISE NETFLIX! ICE CREAM PARTY?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Petty quarrel
5 Dover's st.
8 Zodiac animal
12 Juno counterpart
13 Eastern title
14 Hurry up
15 Burr's duel victim
17 — Rios, Jamaica
18 Glasgow "no"
19 Amass
21 Alex Haley novel
24 Mom's sister
25 Outback birds
26 Free of physical desire
30 "That's show —!"
31 Tan shade
32 Actress Thurman
33 Fred and Wilma's era
35 The Kennedys, e.g.
36 Bring in
37 Oasis trees
38 Plunging, like a neckline
41 Dry, as wine
42 Doc's subj.
43 Cell-phone sound
48 Pac-12 team
49 Vichy water
50 "Topaz" author
51 Bambi's kin
52 Diplomat's res.
53 Faxed

DOWN

1 "Hush!"
2 Stew veggie
3 Pitcher's pride
4 Corrupts
5 Go out with
6 Freudian topic
7 Urdu, for one
8 Small cave
9 "Yeow!"
10 Wimbledon champ of '75
11 Thunder god
16 Vegas opener
20 Pot starter
21 Soldiers in gray
22 Leave out
23 Greek liqueur
24 Set straight
26 Partridge's place, in song
27 — and void
28 Mosque VIP
29 Tin containers
31 Boyfriend
34 Bee's drink
35 Prickly pear, e.g.
37 Cribbage scorer
38 Glorify
39 Tale opener
40 Corduroy ridge
41 Rebuff
44 "— a Rock"
45 Tram load
46 Diarist Anaïs
47 Extreme suffix

Solution time: 22 mins.

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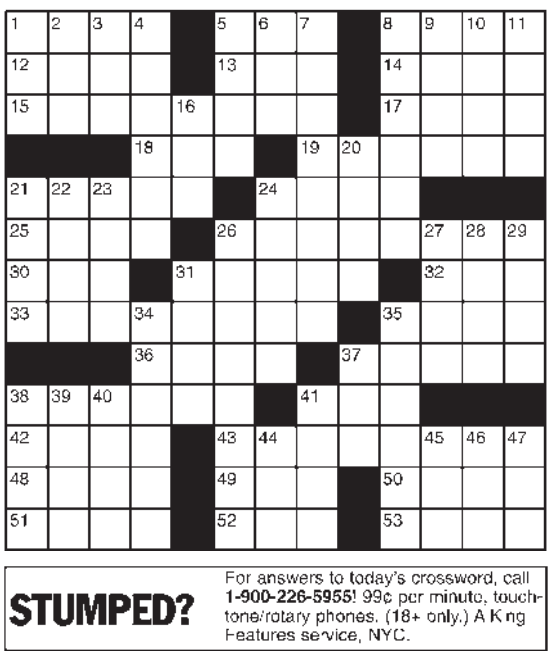
Yesterday's answer 1-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shawn Johnson, 24; Drea de Matteo, 44; Katey Sagal, 62; Dolly Parton, 70.

Happy Birthday: Don't trust your emotions this year. Try to let go of any suspicions or assumptions that arise. Taking a pure approach to what you do and making a point to do your own thing will help you avoid interference. Let personal situations develop naturally without doing too much to interfere. Keep your money separate and refrain from trying to buy love. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 28, 30, 39, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make career decisions and pick up the skills that will help you qualify for a new position. Good fortune awaits if you put in the effort. Don't be discouraged by someone who doesn't see things your way. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take action and be at the helm of any project you decide to embark upon. You will open up new possibilities through conversations with experts. Express your ideas and interest will mount and advancement and recognition will follow. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll attract poor influences. Make up your own mind rather than giving in to peer pressure. A tendency to be indulgent will leave you in a precarious position. Listen to the voice of reason, not someone using emotional manipulation. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put a little muscle behind an activity you participate in, and you will turn heads with your masterful way of presenting what you have to offer. A partnership looks promising, and talks will lead to a contract or commitment. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll excel when faced with something new and exciting. Romance is on the rise, and making personal changes will bring you plenty of positive attention. Don't let your popularity lead to conceit. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You will be in dire need of a change. Engage in something that will allow you to share your ideas with people who are uplifting and offer positive support. Don't give in to someone using emotional tactics to control your every move. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Focus inward and do your best. Make the subtle physical changes that will boost your confidence. Refuse to let someone you live with push you around. Make a difference by setting new ground rules. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Gather enough information to bring about a change or book a long-overdue trip. Take a stance and opt to put your energy into working on something that you really want to see happen. You can offer someone help, but don't go overboard. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be too quick to start something new. More information will be necessary if you want to avoid a huge oversight, cost or opposition. Put your time and effort into your home, family and nurturing important relationships. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): It's up to you to take action. Focus on your professional or financial goals, making sure that you are not being unrealistic. There will be a price to pay if you don't pay close attention to detail. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make home improvements, spend time with family and friends, and take better care of your health and well-being. Don't be fooled by a display of emotional tactics from someone who only wants your money and your sympathy. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): What you do to help a cause will also help you. Being involved in something that will bring about positive change will encourage you to make new contacts that will contribute to your life. Let go of the people who drag you down. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined and forward-thinking. You are relentless and unpredictable.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				8	9		7	1
	8							
					5		4	
	3	1			8	5		6
		9		6		2		
2		6	4			8	1	
	6		1					
							5	
9	2		8	7				

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	7	3	9	5	8	2	1
9	3	8	7	1	2	4	5	6
5	1	2	6	8	4	3	9	7
1	2	5	8	7	6	9	4	3
8	6	9	5	4	3	7	1	2
3	7	4	1	2	9	5	6	8
7	8	6	9	5	1	2	3	4
4	5	3	2	6	8	1	7	9
2	9	1	4	3	7	6	8	5

Difficulty Level ★ 1/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DESIGNATED DRIVERS Solution: 6 letters

D	R	I	V	E	S	N	E	C	I	L	S	N	A	T
E	M	O	H	D	E	T	C	E	L	E	S	I	R	N
P	L	A	N	R	E	L	I	A	B	L	E	A	R	A
E	O	A	B	U	L	C	T	H	G	I	N	R	A	R
N	O	D	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	I	F	N	U
D	P	D	D	E	K	R	A	P	P	D	S	E	G	A
A	R	R	R	E	B	O	S	O	E	P	U	R	E	T
B	A	E	Y	A	F	G	R	E	B	A	B	A	M	S
L	Ⓒ	S	R	F	N	T	E	G	N	U	R	C	E	E
E	Ⓐ	S	I	I	A	W	R	R	N	S	S	P	N	R
S	Ⓑ	C	T	T	X	S	O	A	U	I	I	E	T	V
P	E	E	I	L	E	A	M	R	V	C	R	B	S	I
A	E	O	L	P	I	R	T	A	K	E	E	A	L	C
M	N	O	S	R	E	P	F	U	E	L	L	S	H	E
N	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	T	Y	T	E	F	A	S

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Address, Arrangements, Bar, Buses, Business, Cab, Care, Carpool, Dependable, Drive, Fuel, Home, Keys, License, Maps, Meetings, Nightclub, Office, Parked, Person, Pick Up, Plan, Protect, Refrain, Reliable, Restaurant, Ride, Safety, Secure, Selected, Sensible, Services, Sharing, Sober, Solution, Taxi, Teams, Toll, Transportation, Travel, Trip, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Pumps

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 or 43**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
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Interested applicants must submit their resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on Friday, January 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2016

Opening date: December 31, 2015 **Closing date: January 22, 2016**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position:
(1) Mechanic-II (ARFF)
(5) Ports Police Trainee (Saipan)
(1) AOA Controller-I (Saipan)
(1) Secretary-II (Rota)
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(1) Procurement Technician (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Accountant-I (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, January 22, 2015.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For additional information, please contact the Ms. Addy C. Manahane, by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Manning leads Broncos past Steelers, 23-16

DENVER (AP)—Peyton Manning gets to face his biggest nemesis for one more shot at glory.

Get ready for Brady-Manning XVII.

The NFL's only five-time MVP earned one more and possibly final game against his rival by leading the Denver Broncos to a come-from-behind 23-16 win over Ben Roethlisberger and the Pittsburgh Steelers on a blustery Sunday.

That set up an AFC championship game next weekend in Denver against Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

What a fitting feature to an 18th season for Manning that's been equal parts trying and triumphant, filled with injuries and insults, rehab and redemption.

And yet another rescue.

Manning and Brady have squared off 16 times before, a full season's worth of matchups between the two quarterbacks whose careers are so intertwined that a conversation about one almost has to include the other - like Bird vs. Magic or Ali vs. Frazier.

"It'll be the Broncos vs. the Patriots," Manning said of the AFC's top two seeds, both 13-4. "We'll enjoy this one tonight. I think you knew that answer was coming. To kind of quote Bill Belichick, we'll be on to New England. But I'll be talking about them on Wednesday."

Football fans certainly won't wait that long.

Brady has won 11 of the 16 meetings against Manning, but they're 2-2 in the playoffs, including Denver's 26-16 win in the conference championship game two years ago.

The 17th chapter was slated for November before Manning went out with a foot injury that pushed longtime backup Brock Osweiler into the starting - and starring - role.

Osweiler led the Broncos back from a two-touchdown, fourth-quarter deficit against New England on Nov. 29 in a game Denver won 30-24 in overtime. Manning had just gotten out of his cast and watched that game from the locker room after shaking Brady's hand in pregame warmups.

He returned to action in the season finale, his cameo propelling the Broncos past San Diego and into the AFC's No. 1 seed that ensures Brady & Co. will have to play at altitude in their fifth consecutive trip to the conference championship game.

Just before kickoff Sunday, a strong wind blew over the Rocky Mountains, wreaking havoc on passes and kicks alike, although Brandon McManus tied an NFL playoff record by converting all five of his field-goal attempts and Chris Boswell made all three of his.

Manning's teammates dropped seven passes but also came through in crunch time. Denver is 10-3 in games decided by seven points or fewer, and Manning said being battle-tested helped them on this blustery night

With Denver down 13-12 with less than 10 minutes left, cornerback Bradley Roby, burned time and again, punched the ball from Fitzgerald Toussaint's arms and teammate DeMarcus Ware recovered at the Denver 35-yard line.

"Perfect timing," Roby said.

Toussaint, who scored his first career TD in the first half, took it hard and blamed himself.

"This is not all on him by any means," Roethlisberger said. "It's on all of us."

After Toussaint's fumble, Manning went to work, driving Denver to its only touchdown, a 1-yard run by C.J. Anderson, followed by Demaryius Thomas' catch on the 2-pointer that put Denver ahead 20-13 with three minutes left.

That was Manning's 55th game-winning drive in the fourth quarter or overtime, extending one of the dozen NFL records he owns.

Ware's sack ended Pittsburgh's next drive and McManus kicked his fifth field goal, joking it was such a tricky crosswind that he just kept aiming "at the guy holding the beer in the top left corner."

Boswell made a 47-yarder with 19 seconds left, but Anderson recovered the onside kick.

Manning credited Denver's NFL-best defense for thwarting a team that piled up 34 points on them last month and an offense that stayed patient.

"It was tough all night," Manning said. "They're a good defense, playing really well for the past number of weeks. So real credit to them. We had some good field position early and we had to settle for field goals. I give them credit for that. Field goals are better than no points, but we knew eventually that we needed to get a touchdown drive."

They got that chance thanks to Roby.

"Roby got that left hand to knock the ball out and D-Ware was the man on the spot," cornerback Aqib Talib said. "And the offense ran it down their throat. Tough team. We don't quit until it is zero-zero-zero."

"We're relentless," agreed Anderson. "We fight. We grind. We just keep fighting."

Just like the Steelers.

Roethlisberger led an offense that had several big moments - their top eight plays netted 275 yards and their other 51 snaps resulted in just 118 yards.

"You're right, they're a big-play football team," Broncos coach Gary Kubiak said. "But the good news is that we settled down defensively and found a way to sit there and hold them to 16 points."

Roethlisberger completed 24 of 37 passes for 339 yards despite playing with a sore right shoulder and missing his top receiver - Antonio Brown (concussion) and rusher—DeAngelo Williams (foot). Martavis Bryant had nine catches for 154 yards.

Manning completed 21 of 37 passes for 222 yards.

Two months shy of 40, Manning has said this could very well be his final hurrah, and he's 60 minutes from another chance to win his second Super Bowl ring.

Brady—who else?—stands in his way.

AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning passes against the Pittsburgh Steelers during the first half in an NFL football divisional playoff game, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016, in Denver.

Panthers 31, Seahawks 24

In Charlotte, four games into his playoff career, Cam Newton recognizes the key element to success. He calls it "Big Mo," and there couldn't have been a better example than Carolina's 31-24 victory over Seattle on Sunday.

Emphatically backing up their superb regular season with one of the most dominating halves in football history, the Panthers then hung on in the face of a furious Seahawks rally before surviving.

"The playoffs bring out more than any other time the impact of 'Big Mo,'" Newton said after Carolina (16-1) moved into NFC title game, which they will host next Sunday against Arizona (13-3). "Momentum.

"We can't wait for no one to make plays for us."

The Panthers, winners of 12 straight at home, made all the right plays in building a 31-0 lead, then were dominated by the two-time defending NFC champs in the second half. So if Carolina wins its first NFL championship, it can credit the lesson learned from the Seahawks (11-7).

"We have to find a way to complete a full game of football," the All-Pro quarterback added. "We have been known to take our foot off the throttle and we have to find that killer instinct."

Newton noted how players, coaches and even the fans were feeling the pressure in the final 30 minutes as Seattle staged a relentless comeback.

"It was a tale of execution. We needed a little more of that in the second half. You just have to find ways to get your groove back on."

Gomez wins Sony Open in a playoff over Snedeker

HONOLULU (AP)—Whether he was playing money games with the other caddies in Argentina or playing mini-tours on his long road to the big leagues in golf, Fabian Gomez couldn't recall ever making seven straight birdies. He won't forget Sunday in the Sony Open.

That amazing birdie streak - no putt longer than 12 feet - carried him to an 8-under 62, and the 37-year-old Argentine won with his 11th birdie of the day on the second playoff hole to outlast Brandt Snedeker.

"I felt good all week long and was about to put on a great round today," Gomez said through a translator. "And I had Brandt Snedeker in front of me. I got on a streak with seven putts in a row. And it makes me feel good and feel like I could win the tournament."

Gomez won for the second time on the PGA Tour, and this one was much tougher.

Starting the final round four shots behind, Gomez seized control with his seven straight birdies starting on No. 6, only to follow with back-to-back bogeys that let Snedeker and Zac Blair back into the game. Gomez closed with a 7-iron to 10 feet for birdie on the par-3 17th, and a 20-foot birdie putt from just off the 18th green.

He finished at 20-under 260.

Snedeker hit a delicate 55-yard pitch to 4 feet for birdie to close with 66 and force a playoff.

On the first playoff hole at the par-5 18th, Snedeker missed a 12-foot birdie for the win. Going back to the 18th tee, Gomez had enough. He had not hit the 18th fairway all week, and it was the hardest fairway to hit on Sunday. He had never made birdie on the par 5 until Sunday in regulation.

So he went with hybrid off the tee to stay in the short grass, drilled a 3-iron to the front of the green and lagged his long putt close for a tap-in birdie. This time, Snedeker couldn't match him. His 10-foot putt had slower pace than he wanted and it peeled off to the right.

"It's frustrating because I couldn't make putts to win the golf tournament," Snedeker said. He said leaving his 12-foot putt to win on the first playoff hole "is going to sting today and tomorrow."

Bright start for Serena at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Serena Williams made a bright start to her Australian Open title defense, holding up one finger and twirling in her neon yellow two-piece outfit to mark victory No. 1 after advancing 6-4, 7-5 over Camila Giorgi on Monday.

Williams withdrew from a warmup tournament because of inflammation in her left knee, so the win over Giorgi was her first completed match since her bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam ended in a semifinal loss at the U.S. Open.

The 21-time major winner was troubled initially by the bright sun while serving from one end of Rod Laver Arena, but didn't show too many signs otherwise of discomfort as she beat the No. 34-ranked Giorgi in a challenging opener.

She dropped one service game in the match, while Giorgi struggled with 12 double-faults, including one on the decisive breakpoint in the 11th game of the second set.

Williams fired two aces and a service winner to finish it off.

"It wasn't very easy— she obviously plays really well ... (and) I haven't played a competitive match in a really long time, but I think it was really good for me to come out here," Williams said. "I was able to stay in it and stay calm today and I think that's what matters most."

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova earned the distinction of winning the first completed match at the tournament when she beat Thai qualifier Luksika Kumkhum earlier on Rod Laver Arena, avenging her upset three-set loss in the first round here in 2014.

Kvitova, who had to withdraw from a warmup tournament in China because of a stomach virus, said her preparation was disrupted and she was nervous ahead of the rematch with Kumkhum.

"Now I can breathe a little bit normally," she said. "I got really nervous before the match. I didn't sleep well actually. The memories from two years ago were a little bit difficult."

No. 10 Carla Suarez Navarro advanced in straight sets, while No. 17 Sara Errani was the first of the seeded women eliminated with a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 loss to Margarita Gasparyan. No. 24 Sloane Stephens, who beat Serena Williams in the 2013 Australian Open quarterfinals, went out in a 6-3, 6-3 loss to Chinese qualifier Wang Qiang.

No. 7 Kei Nishikori was the first of the seeded men's players to advance, beating Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

No. 15 David Goffin had a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Sergiy Stakhovsky, and No. 22 Ivo Karlovic was the first of the seeded players to exit the tournament when he retired due to a left knee injury in the third set while trailing Federico Delbonis 7-6 (4), 6-4, 2-1.

AP

Serena Williams of the United States makes a forehand return to Camila Giorgi of Italy during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 18, 2016.

The hours before the tournament began were overshadowed by reports alleging a number of players were suspected of being involved in match-fixing but had been allowed to continue playing.

The ATP, which runs the men's tour, and Nigel Willerton, head of the Tennis Integrity Unit, represented the four governing bodies of tennis - the ATP, the WTA, the Grand Slam Board and the International Tennis Federation - in a joint news conference to reject the allegations published by the BBC and BuzzFeed News.

The reports said secret files exposed evidence of widespread suspected match-fixing at the top level of world tennis. The report said that in the last decade 16 players - all at some stage ranked in the top 50 - have been repeatedly flagged to the integrity unit.

The reports say the players — it doesn't identify them— were allowed to continue competing.

ATP chairman Chris Kermode said tennis authorities "absolutely reject any suggestion that evidence of match-fixing has been suppressed for any reason, or isn't being investigated."

"We have stringent procedures and sanctions in place to deal with any suspected corruption and have shown we will act decisively when our integrity rules are broken," Kermode said. "No player or official is immune ... Investigations follow where evidence leads."

Tennis Integrity Unit investigations have resulted in 18 successful disciplinary cases, including five players and one official who have been banned from the sport for life.

Foye's late 3-pointer lifts Nuggets over Pacers

DENVER (AP)— The Denver Nuggets atoned for a poor defensive first half with a strong offense after the break to pull out a big win.

Randy Foye hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 21 seconds left and the Nuggets rallied with 75 points in the second half to beat the Indiana Pacers 129-126 on Sunday night.

The Nuggets came back to get their seventh straight win at home over the Pacers. Danilo Gallinari had 23 points and Will Barton scored 21, including two free throws with 6 seconds left to help seal it.

Barton had 15 of Denver's 45 points in the fourth quarter. The 75 points was a season high for a half this season.

"We scored 75 points in the second half, which is crazy," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "We did a better job of taking care of the ball in the second half."

It wasn't easy after Indiana's blistering start. The Pacers shot 66 percent in the first half and were 7 of 10 from 3-point range. Monta Ellis had 15 points for Indiana, which led 66-54 at halftime.

Denver countered with a strong offensive game after the break to pull out the win.

"We had to put up some points and I think we really got after it on the offensive end," Barton said.

Indiana led 119-116 after rookie Myles Turner hit 1 of 2 free throws.

Barton, who scored 15 point in the fourth, tied it at 119 with his third 3-pointer of the game. The teams traded baskets and missed free throws before Foye hit the tiebreaking 3.

Thunder 99, Heat 74

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had his second consecutive triple-double to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Miami Heat 99-74 on Sunday.

Westbrook finished with 13 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds. It was his fifth triple-double of the season and the 24th of his career.

Kevin Durant had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Serge Ibaka scored 19 points, and Dion Waiters added 18 for the Thunder. They are the third team to reach 30 wins this season.

Dwyane Wade, who sat out Friday against Denver with shoulder soreness, led the Heat with 22 points on his 34th birthday. Hassan Whiteside added 14 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks for the Heat.

It was the fewest points scored by the Heat this season and the fewest allowed by the Thunder.

Spurs 112, Mavericks 83

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 23 points and San Antonio Spurs beat the Dallas to remain undefeated at home.

The Spurs are a franchise-best 24-0 at home and have won 33 straight at the AT&T Center dating to March 2015. At 36-6, San Antonio matched its best start after 42 games, tying the mark set in 2010-11.

The Spurs loss Tony Parker late in the third quarter to right hip soreness. The injury forced Parker to miss two games at the beginning of the month.

Wesley Matthews led Dallas with 12 points.

Rockets 112, Lakers 95

In Los Angeles, James Harden scored 31 points and Houston pulled away to beat Los Angeles.

Dwight Howard had 14 points and 15 rebounds for his ninth straight double-double, his longest such streak since a 14-game run three seasons ago.

Lou Williams led Los Angeles with 20 points. Kobe Bryant, trying to play through a sore right Achilles, had five points in 24 minutes and tied a season high with nine assists before sitting out the fourth quarter.

Timberwolves 117, Suns 87

In Minneapolis, Ricky Rubio and Andrew Wiggins scored 18 points each and Minnesota beat Phoenix to snap a nine-game losing streak.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves. They shot 56.5 percent and won for the first time since beating Utah on Dec. 30.

Brandon Knight scored 20 points on 9-for-20 shooting, and Markieff Morris had 17 points and five rebounds for free-falling Phoenix. The Suns have lost 13 of 14 games to drop to 13-29.

SIDEBAR

Kobe rules himself out for 2016 Olympics

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant's farewell tour has brought his many fans out to every venue he visits for a series of tributes. Yet the announcement of the end of Kobe's NBA career did not necessarily herald the last hurrah of his time playing high-level basketball. This August's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro offered Bryant another chance to play with and against the best players in the NBA, especially if USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo and head coach Mike Krzyzewski conspired to add the two-time gold medalist to the roster on the merits of his experience and veteran presence.

Kobe said way back in August that he only wanted a spot with Team USA if he earned it on the strength of his play. Bryant appears to have a fairly accurate sense of his worth, because he took himself out of consideration for a place on the national team on Saturday night before the Lakers faced the Utah Jazz. From Tim Reynolds for the Associated Press:

"Since my retirement announcement, I'm able to watch these guys in a different light," said Bryant, a gold medalist in 2008 and 2012. "I've come to terms with the fact that they are the future of this game. These are the guys who deserve the spots in Rio. These are the guys who people need to watch and root for. These are the guys to show fans where this game is going in the future."

''I've had my moment," Bryant said in a pregame news conference.

Royals, Ian Kennedy reach 5-year, $70M deal

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Royals and pitcher Ian Kennedy agreed to a $70 million, five-year deal Saturday that includes an opt-out after the first two years, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract will not be completed until the 31-year-old right-hander passes a physical. That could happen this week.

Kennedy went 9-15 with a 4.28 ERA for the San Diego Padres last season. He is four years removed from a 21-win season with the Arizona Diamondbacks and has also pitched for the New York Yankees during his nine-year career.

Kennedy

The Royals sought another starter to replace Johnny Cueto, who signed a $130 million, six-year deal with the Giants after helping Kansas City win its first World Series since 1985.

Kennedy turned down the Padres' qualifying offer— a guaranteed $15.8 million salary for next season. That means San Diego will receive a draft pick from Kansas City as compensation.

The Royals hope Kennedy can return to form under pitching coach Dave Eiland, who has worked wonders with Edinson Volquez, Yordano Ventura and others over the years. Kennedy and Eiland are familiar with each other after their years in the Yankees system.

Kennedy should also benefit from pitching in spacious Kauffman Stadium. While his strikeout rate was among the best in the game last season, he also allowed 31 homers in just 168 1/3 innings.

Kennedy figures to slide into the middle of the rotation behind Volquez and Ventura and ahead of Kris Medlen and Chris Young. The Royals also have Danny Duffy and Dillon Gee, among several others, who stand to compete for the fifth spot throughout spring training.

Heralded prospect Kyle Zimmer could also be in the mix later in the season.

Long considered frugal, the Royals have spent lavishly the past couple of years, a signal that the small-market club views the next two years as a prime opportunity to win another championship.

Puntan I Langit pulls away in C Division

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty and three other teams are in a heated battle for the A division crown in the Bud Light-SEDA Winter/Spring 2016 season.

The Jokers Puntan I Langit made short work of the Doro's C-Busters, 11-4, in the C Division match of last week's Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring 2016 season held in various bars on the island.

Puntan I Langit won eight of the first nine games to wrap up the contest and seal its 77th victory against 28 defeats. The Sally Aguon-captained squad now enjoys a 14-win lead over closest pursuer Jokers C-Spartans (63-42), while the C-Busters dropped to 41-64 for sixth place.

The Blue Koi Managaha Boyz is in third at 59-46, followed by sister team Team Dartcom's 54-51 slate, while the Doro's Mixed Nuts is at fifth (49-56). The Jokers Dart It (40-65) and the Jokers DNA Jump It (37-68) complete the standings.

Games are race to eight but all 15 matches need to be played since each win and loss are added to the team's records to determine the division champion.

Puntan I Langit's eighth win came from Noke Rogopes, who defeated Sam Gonzales in the first singles regular cricket event.

In other games, the Managaha Boyz and Just Dart It pulled off similar 9-6 decisions over the Mixed Nuts and Team Dartcom, respectively, while the Spartans cruised to a 13-2 win over DNA Jump It.

A Division
- Sakude 11, 101 Proofers 6
- Mafia 10, Snipers 7
- Ridin'Darrty 9, Hunters 8
- Shockers 9, Predators 8

Tuesday B
- Hot Points 8, Dabarkads 7
- Northern Lights 12, Warriors 3
- Shockers 8, G-Side Shooters 7
- Spartans 8, Chamberos 7

Masters
- Daddies 10, Nakayoshi 7
- Pythons 9, Darteros 8

Fanihi
- Mafia II 12, Parakeyu 3
- Ta Chagi Talu 11, Fearless 4
- Dragons 10, Preba Darts 5
- Life After Darts 8, Dart Vader 7

Flame Tree
- Kyodai 11, No Fear 4
- Latte Sparts 11, Na'Gupu 4
- Ridin'Darrty 11, EmTech 4
- Serial Killaz 11, One Shot 4

Teachers, Originals win debuts

Two more squads had a good start in the 33rd season of the Saipan Rocball League as the Teachers and Originals juiced-out their respective opponents last week at the Marianas High School court.

Originals debuted ahead of the Teachers, prevailing against Nangka Namu last Wednesday, 51-22. Originals won all four sets for the easy juiced-out victory, which is handed to the team that had the lead at the end of regulation and also won the fourth set.

In the opening set, Originals engaged Nangka Namu in a close match before pulling off a 13-9 win. In the second, Originals cruised to a 13-3 triumph before posting another 13-9 victory in the penultimate set. In the fourth and final set, Nangka Namu gave its best shot in the hopes of forcing the overtime, but Originals held its ground and escaped with a 12-11 win to end the match early.

The Originals-Nangka Namu game produced seven aces, five xunks, and two kees.

In the other match last week, Jacoby Winkfield registered 15 points to power the Teachers to a 53-25 win against A-Team.

Winkfield top-scored for the Teachers after collecting four aces, two kees, and one goal in last Thursday's match. There were six other goals, one jam, and four kees made in the Teachers-A-Team tiff.

The Teachers set up the juiced-out win after dominating A-Team in the first three sets, 14-8, 13-4, and 13-4. In the final set, A-Team made a little headway before allowing the Teachers to complete the sweep with a 13-9 victory.

Only two games were played in the league last week, as the two other matches were rained-out. The Teachers and Originals joined opening week winners Block Magic and Rebels in the early lead. Two more squads—the Veterans and Roc-Wid-It— have yet to debut in this season's rocball league. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

GREG

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with a 147 to settle for $200 and free SGA membership for 2016.

Jung, an 11 handicapper, was third after rounds of 73 and 77 to go home with $175 and a year's free SGA membership. Attorney General Edward Manibusan, the January monthly winner last year and had a 5 handicap, finished fourth with his 151 (75-76).

Former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Sec. Juan L. Babauta (155, 77-78); Nick Sablan (156, 79-77); and Jess Castro (156, 82-74) rounded up the Top 7 finishers.

Demapan also ended up with 156, Tony Guerrero finished with 157, Ed Sablan had 158, while Alex Tudela joined John Lizama and Frances Sablan with 161s. Larry Guerrero (166) and Ray Salas (180) were the other SGA members that completed the two-day tournament, while Steve Jang, Frank Castro, Rick Kautz, James Nelson, and Martin Ada joined only the first round.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

a 17-8 advantage midway in the first half. The Ol'Aces then fought back and managed to move within one at the break, 27-28.

In the second half, Nak Nakashima took over in the opening minutes, scoring 6 consecutive points, while Aiferson Atan added 4 before Olopai stepped up to close out for the Ol'Aces.

With the win, the Ol'Aces are in a three-way standoff for the lead, joining the Sonics and Rollers 1. The three squads finished the round-robin elimination with similar 3-1 records.

The Sonics foiled Rollers 1's bid for a sweep after earning a 63-58 victory last Thursday.

The Sonics hit important free throws in the end to hand Rollers 1 its first loss in the tournament. Gerald Flores made a pair, while Bryan De Guzman also had two charities and nailed the Sonics' last 4 points.

Mii Tekopua led the Sonics in scoring with his 12 points, while Flores finished with 9. Mike Arciaga had 21 for Rollers 1.

With the Rollers 1, Sonics, and Ol'Aces in a deadlock for the top spot, they are all assured of the playoff spots, but tournament organizers need to break the tie to determine the pairings in the semifinals. Rollers 2 completed the Final Four cast with its 1-3 mark, while the Runnin' Rebels are eliminated. In the semis, which will be played this Saturday, the pairings are No. 1 versus No. 4 and No. 2 against No. 3.

Saturday Game

Ol'Aces 50—Olopai 11, Nakashima 10, Atan 9, Castillo 9, Francisco 4, Iba 2, Moses 2, Stefano 2, D. Norita 1.

Runnin' Rebels 47—Atalig 14, Sablan 10, Peter 5, Siech 5, Norita 4, Florencio 3, Ngiraroas 2, Jones 2, Tadeo 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-28, 50-47.

Thursday Game

Sonics 63—Tekopua 12, Flores 9, Castro 8, De Guzman 8, Lansang 7, Espinosa 6, Javier 5, Kintaro 4, Feria 2, Borromeo 2.

Rollers 1 58— Arciaga 21, Alipio 11, Deocares 7, Je. Cruz 6, Darag 4, Dancoe 2, Factor 2, Ong 2, JP Cruz 2, Ellama 1.

Scoring by halves: 23-22, 63-58.

HERAS

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Fund Touring Team members Vienna Kumar and Ruby Coffin of Fiji ruled the lower half of the bracket. The Fiji duo defeated Sarah Ann Coleman and Holli Smith in the Round of 8, 6-2, 6-0, and had a similar surprise victory against the No. 2 seeds Kelsey Lewis and Julia Ramos, 6-1, 6-1, to march into the finals.

In the title game last Friday, Heras and Saipele drew first blood, 4-6, but failed to keep their momentum in the last two sets to hand Coffin and Kumar the doubles crown. The Fiji pair took the second set by 3 points, 6-3, and prevailed in the super tiebreaker third set, 10-5.

The finals stint in Wodonga was Heras' second, as she had her first in the consolation round of the girls U16 singles event in the 2016 Commercial Club Margaret Court Cup held at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales a week earlier. The 15-year-old netter went on to rule the consolation bracket after downing two opponents.

In the doubles of the same tournament in Albury, Heras also teamed up with Saipele and, incidentally, they placed second, too to Kumar and Coffin.

In the singles event in Wodonga, Heras advanced to the semis of the consolation draw. She won over Laicy Rogerson, 6-4, 6-1, but dropped a tough super tiebreaker against the top-ranked Emmy Lappel, 4-6, 7-5, 8-10, to miss a finals trip. Heras fell to the consolation bracket after losing another close first round game in the main draw against Kumar, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6. Kumar eventually ruled the division with her 7-5, 6-1 upset versus the No. 4 seed Olivia Huang.

Meanwhile, Heras' teammate Malika Miyawaki also competed in the Wodonga tournament and barged into the semifinals of the girls U14 doubles and singles consolation draw.

Miyawaki partnered with Tahiti's Lea Vainui Lamorelle and they survived Nikita Chumbley and Hannah Morgan, 6-7, 6-4, 12-10, to make it to the semifinals against the top-ranked duo of Joy Andreou and Charlie Hargreaves. The seeded pair ousted Miyawaki and Lamorelle, 6-1, 6-0, and eventually bagged the doubles crown after a 6-4, 6-2 triumph over No. 2 Imogen Cameron and Alana Repanich.

In the singles, Miyawaki shut down Chloe Smith and Ella Anderson in the consolation draw to arrange a semis duel against Chloe Barker, who eliminated the CNMI bet, 6-3, 6-1, to march into the finals.

Earlier in the main draw, Miyawaki outclassed Clare D'Alessandro in the first round, 6-2, 6-0, before bowing to the top-ranked Andreou in the quarterfinals, 4-6, 1-6.

9th Annual Reverse Coed Grass Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Christen Steinkuller, left, and Tyler Willsey pose with their medals after ruling last Saturday's 9th Annual Reverse Coed Grass Volleyball Tournament held at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Angie and Tyce Mister came in at third among the 23 teams that saw action in the one-day tournament.

Toni Yamada, left, and Alfredo Guevarra smile after receiving their runner-up prizes.

Some of the participants and volunteers of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's first event for 2016 gather for a group photo.

Nick Gross, left, prepares to set up the ball.

Team Egao, left, plays against Out Of Bounds in the finals of the consolation bracket.

Mychael Omar prepares to serve during one of their elimination round matches.

Linda Anastacio, right, takes a breather as his teammate Rob Epley prepares to serve.

Jacoby Winkfield, left, sets up teammate Nicole LeBlanc.

John Nekaifes, right, tries to keep the ball in play, while teammate Charnessa Lizama looks on in their elimination round match.

Manning leads Broncos past Steelers, 23-16

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Bright start for Serena at Australian Open

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Greg Sablan repeats as SGA champ

JON PEREZ

Gregorio Sablan Jr. shows his trophies after winning the 2015 Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces tournament held over the weekend at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi and the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gregorio Sablan Jr. gets to keep the Saipan Golfers Association's perpetual trophy for another year after winning the 2015 Ace of Aces tournament held over the weekend.

Sablan, who fired a 73 in Saturday's opening day at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi, duplicated his score when play resumed at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last Sunday.

He was grouped with Day 1 leader John "Nanni" Cruz, SGA president Jung Eun Teack,and Juan "Jaan" Lizama in the final face-off at the Kagman golf facility.

Sablan shot 51 on the front nine after another bogey-filled start, including triple bogeys at the par-4 Nos. 4, 6 and 9. He had a better result at the back and started off with three straight even-pars to finish with a 40. He tallied a gross score of 91 and his 18 handicap gave him another 73. His 73-73 rounds earned him a 146 total for a one-shot win over Cruz.

Sablan, the October Ace of the Month, now joins two-time champions Jung (2001 and 2013) and Jose S. Demapan (2005 and 2008). He, however, is the first back-to-back champion.

Sablan, aside from the perpetual trophy, also won $300, free SGA membership for the whole year, and a lunch for two gift certificate from the Miyako Japanese restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. He received his October Ace of the Month and his own Ace of Aces trophies, too.

Sunday's final day of SGA's yearend event doubled as January Ace of the Month tournament with Sablan claiming the first monthly crown for 2016.

Cruz, the 2015 February Ace of the Month and opening day leader with his 69 net, had a 47-49 round at Laolao for a 96 gross and a 78 net. He finished

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Ol'Aces force 3-way tie for lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces slipped past the Runnin' Rebeles, 50-47, in the final elimination round game in the boys U19 division of the 2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Irvin Olopai top-scored for the Ol'Aces in their close win after knocking in 11 points, with 7 of them registered in the second half. He recorded 5 straight points in the closing minutes of the match and tallied 7 of the Ol'Aces last 11 markers.

The Ol'Aces needed a lift from Olopai in the second half as they played catch up with the Runnin' Rebels, who lived up to their name in the first 20 minutes of play. The Runnin' Rebels outsprinted the Ol'Aces in the fastbreak plays to build

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Leowell Cristobal, right, loses his dribble as he is tightly guarded by a Runnin' Rebels defender during the first half of their game in the boys U19 division of the Tan Holdings holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Heras enters doubles finals of Aussie tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Isabel Heras, seen here in action during the 7th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts last month, advanced to the girls U16 doubles finals of the 2016 Victorian Grasscourt Championships last week in Wodonga, Australia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior player Isabel Heras made another finals appearance in Australia as she and Samoa's Anasis Saipele stunned the top-ranked team in the semifinals of the 2016 Victorian Grasscourt Championships.

Heras and Saipele swept the No. 1 seeded pair of Mercy Jane Eze and Olivia Huang, 6-2, 6-2, last Friday at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria to take the girls U16 doubles' finals seat in the upper half of the draw. The victory was the second in a row for the CNMI-Samoa duo as earlier in the quarterfinals, Heras and Saipele labored a 6-4-6-4 win against Polly Barnett and Georgia Collins last Wednesday. It took Heras and Saipele nearly five hours, according to the tournament website, to survive the quarterfinal round, while the pair needed only 55 minutes to pull off a big win against the top-ranked team in the field.

The upset also set up an all-Pacific Oceania finale, as Heras and Saipele's fellow Grand Slam Development

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